AHMADIYYA
MUSLIM COMMUNITY
United States of America

Muslims who believe in the Messiah
Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian

An informational, literary, educational, and training magazine of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, USA

August-October 2015

The Ahmadiyya GAZETTE USA

Tabligh Activities in Merida, Mexico

National Calendar of Activities

November 19 Thursday	Voluntary Fast	Jamāʿat	National
November 22 Sun	Sīrat-un-Nabī Day	Jamāʿat	Regional/Local
November 26 Thu	Humanity First Live Streaming Telethon	Jamāʿat	National
December 4 Fri	National Āmila Meeting	Jamāʿat	National
December 5-6 Sat-Sun	Presidents Refresher Course	Jamāʿat	National
December 17 Thursday	Voluntary Fast	Jamāʿat	National
December 25-27 Fri-Sun	West Coast Jalsa Sālāna		
December 26-27 Sat-Sun	Midwest Tarbiyati Ijtimā	Jamāʿat	Midwest
December 31 Thu	Aṭfāl Sleepover	Aṭfāl	Regional/Local

Suggested topics for next Issues

December Issue 2015: On Siratun-Nabi, peace, training of children, importance of retrospective review and future planning.

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English:

1-- Muslim Sunrise - Chastity

2. Muslim Sunrise - Freedom Of Speech

3. Prayers by Hafiz Muzaffar Ahmad

Requesting prayers, Mohammad Ahmed Nasir, In-Charge Ahmadiyya Bookstore USA

An educational and spiritual publication

The Ahmadiyya Gazette USA

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Patron: Dr. Ahsanullah Zafar
Amīr Jamā'at USA
Editorial Advisor:
Mohammed Zafarullah Hanjra
Editor: Syed Sajid Ahmad
Design: Latif Ahmed
Gazette Online: Hammad Malik

Visit us at AhmadiyyaGazette.us

The Aḥmadiyya Gazette USA
Baitur-Rahman
15000 Good Hope Road,
Silver Spring, MD 20905

Phone: 301-879-0110 FAX: 301-879-0115
e-mails: gazette@ahmadiyya.us
publications@ahmadiyya.us

Acronyms for salutations used in this publication

sa: Ṣallallāhu 'Alaihi Wa Sallam
(peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)
as: 'Alaihis-Salām
(may peace be upon him)
ra: Raḍiyallahu 'Anhu/'Anha
(may Allah be pleased with him/her)
rh: Raḥimahullāhu Ta'ālā
(may Allah shower His mercy on him)
aba: Ayyadahullāhu Ta'ālā Bi-Naṣrihil-'Azīz
(may Allah support him with His mighty help)

Verse numbers in the references from the Holy Qur'ān count Tasmiya at the beginning of a chapter as the first verse.

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The Holy Qur'ān on the Remembrance of Allah

فَاِذَا قَضَيْتُمْ مَّنَاسِكَكُمْ فَاذْكُرُوا اللّٰهَ كَذِكْرِكُمْ اٰبَآءَكُمْ اَوْ اَشَدَّ ذِكْرًا ؕ

فَمِنَ النَّاسِ مَنْ يَّقُوْلُ رَبَّنَآ اٰتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا وَ مَا لَهٗ فِي الْاٰخِرَةِ مِنْ خَلَاقٍ ﴿۲۰۱﴾

وَ مِنْهُمْ مَّنْ يَّقُوْلُ رَبَّنَآ اٰتِنَا فِي الدُّنْيَا حَسَنَةً وَّ فِي الْاٰخِرَةِ حَسَنَةً وَّ قِنَا عَذَابَ النَّارِ ﴿۲۰۲﴾

And when you have performed the acts of worship prescribed for you, celebrate the praises of Allah as you celebrated the praises of your fathers, or even more than that. And of men there are some who say, 'Our Lord, grant us good things in this world;' and such a one shall have no share in the Hereafter.

And of them there are some who say: 'Our Lord, grant us good in this world as well as good in the world to come, and protect us from the torment of the Fire.' (2 [Al-Baqarah] : 201-202. Translation by Maulawi Sher Ali)

Commentary by Ḥaḍrat Mirza Bashirud-Din Mahmud Ahmad, Muṣliḥ Mau'ūd, Khalīfatul-Masīḥ II, may Allah be pleased with him:

When you have completed the rites of pilgrimage in compliance with the procedure revealed by Allah, recall God Almighty as you recall the memories of your fathers and grandfathers. Arabs used to relate the accomplishments of their forefathers and recite poetry containing the stories of the bravery and generosity of their tribes in gatherings at Mina for three days after the completion of their pilgrimage. Almighty Allah directs to mention Almighty God after the rites of pilgrimage as you mention your ancestors. As a young child separated from her mother cries and wails seeking the closeness of her mother so should you mention Almighty God again and again so that His love may saturate every pore of your body. Allah is a hidden existence, His beauty does not appear before man directly, rather it appears through numerous means. If His beauty is mentioned in words and then we ponder over them then slowly His being appears before us meaningfully. When you mention Master then bring the concept of His being master into your thoughts. When you name Him Holy, then gather His Holiness in your mind, when you think about the Coverer, ponder over His Covering. When you think of His Forgiving, and then bring to your mind His forgiveness. It is imminent that eventually a complete picture of the Almighty God will take shape before you. The Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him, expresses this reality in one of his couplets:

If it is not possible to see then at least let there be His mention, or let there at least be some signs of the evidence of His existence. (Translated from Tafsīr-i-Kabīr (Urdu), Vol. 2, Pp -443-444)

Selected Sayings of the Holy Prophet

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللهِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ " لاَ تَجْعَلُوا بُيُوتَكُمْ قُبُورًا وَلاَ تَجْعَلُوا قَبْرِي عِيدًا وَصَلُّوا عَلَيَّ فَإِنَّ صَلاَتَكُمْ تَبْلُغُنِي حَيْثُ كُنْتُمْ "

(ابوداود کتاب المناسک باب زیارۃ القبور)

Abu Hurairah relates that the Holy Prophet said: Do not make my grave a place of festivity but invoke blessings upon me for your blessing will reach me, wherever you may be (Abu Daud). (Translated.from Arabic by Muhammad Zafrulla Khan, Gardens of the Righteous, Narration 1406)

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عَنْ زَيْدِ بْنِ خَالِدٍ الْجهُنِيّ رضی اللہ تعالیٰ عنہ قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللهِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ " مَنْ جهَّزَغَازِيًا فِي سَبِيلِ اللهِ فَقَدْ غَزَا، وَمَنْ خَلَفَ غَازِيًا فِي سَبِيلِ اللهِ بِخَيْرٍ فَقَدْ غَزَا ".

(بخاری کتاب الجہاد باب فضل من جھز غازیا)

Zaid ibn Khalid Juhni relates that the Holy Prophet said: He who equips a fighter in the cause of Allah is as if he fights himself and he who looks after the dependents of a fighter in his absence is as if he fights himself (Bokhari and Muslim). (Translated from Arabic by Muhammad Zafrulla Khan, Gardens of the Righteous, Narration 179)

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عَنْ أُمِّ سَلَمَةَ رضیَ اللہ عنہا قَالَتْ: قَالَ رَسُولُ اللهِ صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ : مَنْ كَانَ لَهُ ذِبْحٌ يَذْبَحُهُ فَإِذَا أُهِلَّ هِلاَلُ ذِي الْحِجَّةِ فَلاَ يَأْخُذَنَّ مِنْ شَعْرِهِ وَلاَ مِنْ أَظْفَارِهِ شَيْئًا حَتَّى يُضَحِّيَ۔

(مسلم کتاب الاضاحی باب نھی من دخل علیہ عشر ذی الحجۃ)

Umm Salamah relates that the Holy Prophet said: One who intends to offer a sacrifice on the occasion of the Festival of Sacrifices should not have his hair cut or his nails pared during the first days of the month till he has offered his sacrifice (Muslim). (Translated.from Arabic by Muhammad Zafrulla Khan, Gardens of the Righteous, Narration 1712)

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Miracles are Wrought by Prayer

From the Writings of the Promised Messiah
may peace be upon him

PRAYER

I say truly that if crying before God Almighty is full of utmost humility, it moves His grace and mercy and draws them (towards the supplicator). I can say out of my own experience that I have felt the grace and mercy of God, which comes in the shape of the acceptance of prayer, coming towards me. Indeed, I rather say that I have actually seen it. If the dark-minded philosophers of this age cannot feel it or see it, this verity is not going to disappear from the world, more so because I am ready to demonstrate the acceptance of prayer at all times. [Malfuzat, vol. I, p. 198]

Miracles are Wrought by Prayer

The subject of the acceptance of prayer is a branch of the subject of prayer. A person who does not comprehend the principle encounters difficulty in comprehending a branch. This is at the bottom of the misunderstanding of Sayyed Sahib. The principle of prayer is that there is a mutually attractive relationship between a pious servant and his Lord. To begin with, the mercy (Rahmaniyyat) of God Almighty draws a servant to itself. Then through his sincerity the servant approaches close to God Almightyand in prayer that relationship, when it arrives at a certain stage, manifests its wonderful qualities. When a servant Prayer being confronted with a great difficulty leans towards God Almighty with perfect certainty, perfect hope, perfect love, perfect fidelity and perfect resolve, and becoming extremely alert and tearing aside the veils of heedlessness advances far into the fields of the discarding of self, he beholds in front of him the court of the Divine and that He has no associate. Then his soul prostrates itself at that threshold and the power of attraction that is invested in him draws the bounty of God Almighty towards itself. Then God, the Glorious, addresses Himself towards fulfilling the purpose of the supplication and casts the effect of prayer on all those preliminary means which give rise to the means that are necessary for the achievement of the purpose of the prayer. For instance, if the prayer is for rain then on its acceptance the natural means that are needed for rain are created by the effect of the prayer. If the prayer is for famine the All-Powerful One creates the contrary means.

It has been proved to the satisfaction of those who have frequent experience of visions that in the prayer of a perfect person a power of fashioning is created. That is to say, by the command of God the prayer exercises control in the lower and higher world and turns the elements and heavenly bodies and the hearts of people to the direction that is desired. There are many instances of this in the holy Books of God Almighty.

Weekly Guidance from Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V

May Allah be his Helper

Summaries of Friday Sermons received from
Ch. Hameedullah, Wakīl A'lā, Taḥrīk Jadīd Anjuman Aḥmadiyya, Pakistan

Friday Sermon 5 June 2015 at Karlsruhe, Germany

40th Jalsa Salāna Germany

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) inaugurated the 40th Jalsa Salāna Germany and urged the Jamā'at to establish a firm relationship with Allāh, be sympathetic towards mankind, and become helpers of the Promised Messiah علیہ السلام in creating the new earth and the new heaven.

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: God has raised this community to grant the world the cognizance of His being and inform mankind of the reality and benefits of prayer.

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Fill your hearts with love for mankind, be mindful of your brothers' needs and dues, and put an end to mutual discords.

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: By the grace of Allāh, Jalsa Salāna Germany is starting today. While we participate in the Jalsa, our attention is drawn to self evaluation as to where we stand in terms of our relationship with Allāh, faith, and our efforts to act upon His commandments. We have to make sure that our participation in the Jalsa draws our attention to our shortcomings and thus creates a revolutionary change in us making us truly thankful to Allāh for the favors He has bestowed upon us. Also, our participation in the Jalsa should make us mindful of the dues we owe to our brothers.

The Jalsa is not a worldly festival, nor is it a means of attaining worldly benefits; rather those who attend it should engage themselves in remembrance of Allāh and obtain the level of righteousness God has commanded us to obtain.

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: During the Jalsa days, try to strengthen your relationship with Allāh, fill your hearts with love for mankind, be mindful of your brothers' needs and the dues you owe to them and strive to put an end to mutual discords. Only then will you be able to spread the message of the true Islām in the world. These Jalsas are held so that by listening to the words of piety we inculcate the habit of performing the good deeds that will lead us to Allāh. This world is but transitory; we should, therefore, hasten towards understanding God our Lord. To attain this we will have to worship Him in all sincerity, act upon His commandments, try to step out of the darkness of this world and sincerely make efforts to win His pleasure.

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: It is Allāh's favor upon us that He keeps sending His chosen servants in the world to help us reform ourselves. We are fortunate that we accepted the one sent by God in this age. He taught us how to love Allāh and His prophet and how to act in perfect submission and obedience to Allāh and His messenger and how to reform ourselves in terms of practice and faith.

In a vision, God showed the Promised Messiah علیہ السلام that he created a new earth and a new heaven. The best and perfect demonstration of this was given by the Holy Prophet صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم who established on *Tauhīd* those who were previously its mortal enemies and transformed these people from idol worshippers to the worshippers of the One and Only God. Thus, those who previously loved worldly wealth and fortunes were able to set the most enviable standards of truthfulness and sacrifice. What is more, the Holy Prophet صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم established the rights of women granting them an honorable position in society. Indeed, the Holy Prophet صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم raised man from a condition that could be called the lowest of the low and transformed him into a being who recognized his Lord. This was a great miracle shown by the Holy Prophet. صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم And, indeed this was the new earth and the new heaven created by the advent of the Holy Prophet صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم.

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: God commanded the Promised Messiah علیہ السلام to create a new earth and a new heaven. As a result, the Promised Messiah علیہ السلام did indeed bring about a revolutionary change in the world. By transforming the moral

condition of hundreds of thousands of people, he demonstrated how a new earth and heaven is created.

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Through this vision of the Promised Messiah علیہ السلام the Jamā'at too has been commanded to be helpers of the Promised Messiah علیہ السلام in creating a new earth and a new heaven. Therefore, our foremost priority should be to establish the Unity of the Almighty God in the world. We should make our best efforts to improve our relationship with Allāh, act upon His commandments and fulfill the rights of Allāh's creation. Our belief in the Promised Messiah علیہ السلام must not be confined to creed alone; rather, positive change in our practice should also be evident. Hence, if we are fulfilling the rights of Allāh and men, then our relationship with Allāh and His creation is surely pure and uncontaminated. In this case, we are surely helping the Promised Messiah علیہ السلام create a new earth and a new heaven. The Promised Messiah علیہ السلام said: God has raised this Jamā'at so as to grant the world the cognizance of His being and inform mankind of the reality and benefits of prayer. This age is the age of spiritual conflict and the war with Satan has already begun.

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The Promised Messiah علیہ السلام has assigned to all those who believe in him the responsibility of enhancing their spirituality and defeating the Satan. May Allāh enable us to fulfill our obligations in this regard? May Allāh cause this Jalsa to be a blessed event in every respect? *Āmīn.*

Friday Sermon 12 June 2015 at the Baitul-Futūh Mosque, Morden, London

Bounties of Almighty God

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) gave an account of his tour to Germany and of Jalsa Salāna Germany, and spoke about the bounties the Almighty God has showered upon the Jamā'at during the trip.

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) expressed his gratitude to Allāh, and talked about the impressions of the guests who attended the Jalsa.

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: One should always remain engaged in prayers and gratefully proclaim the bounties of the Almighty God.

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) commended the services of the Jalsa volunteers and said that in such huge events some minor flaws always remain, so we should keep an eye on them, so that we can improve the arrangements in the future.

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: One should remain engaged in prayer no matter what the situation or circumstances are and proclaim the bounties of the Almighty God, as this increases a person in love for his Lord.

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) mentioned his recent visit to Germany and his participation in the Jalsa Salāna Germany, and expressed his gratitude to Allāh by relating a few faith-inspiring incidents and speaking about the grace and blessings of the Almighty God bestowed upon the Jamā'at during the visit.

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Through the Jalsa Salāna Germany and other programs organized on this occasion the message of Ahmadiyyat was propagated across Germany on a very large scale. Surely, without Allāh's grace and will, it is not possible for anyone to touch someone's heart; even bombastic speeches, at times, fail to impact a person. On the other hand, simple words said in a simple manner, at times, manage to affect a person's heart, and we witnessed this happening at the Jalsa.

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: By the grace of Allāh, many people attended the Jalsa from eastern Europe and other neighboring countries of Germany. I personally met those people and had Question & Answer sessions with them. As a result, some of those people recognized the truth and took Bai'at.

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) spoke about the impressions of the guests about the Jalsa: They found love, sincerity and selfless devotion among the participants of the Jalsa and felt the arrangements of the Jalsa to be ever expanding and improving. Some of the guests said that for the first time in their life they met such a nice group of people. What impressed the guests most was the message of the True Faith which they said they found in the Jalsa. The guests also praised the arrangements of the Jalsa saying everything was organized in the best possible manner, and that unlike other events they found the atmosphere to be

well-disciplined. The guests were deeply impressed by the message that all people are equal in the sight of Allāh, and that all the participants of the Jalsa demonstrated tolerance towards each other with no one mistreating anyone on account of religion, race or language.

The guests found every aspect of the Jalsa to be so captivating saying the manner in which the Khalīfatul-Masīḥ conveyed the message of Islām to the world was unique, that the spiritual impact of the atmosphere of the Jalsa was such as truly moved their souls, and that after listening to the speeches of the Khalīfatul-Masīḥ their perceptions of Ahmadiyyat were totally changed. The guests also said that the whole atmosphere of the Jalsa was full of a unique kind of love and compassion for each other and that they were deeply moved by the fact that hundreds of people worked voluntarily at the Jalsa without being paid anything in return. Also, the speeches made by the Khalīfatul-Masīḥ provided guidance to the right path, and that the words of the speeches were steeped in love, compassion and sympathy for each other. The guests praised the arrangements of the Jalsa saying they had not seen such a well-organized event before in their life. The guests also said that the Ahmadiyya Jamā'at has proved that God is Ever-Living.

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) drew the attention of the administration of the Jalsa towards the flaws left in the organization of the event and said: Wherever such large events are organized, some flaws are left in the arrangements. The administration of the Jalsa, therefore, is responsible to remove the flaws. We should keep an eye on our weaknesses and shortcomings. A lot of food has been wasted in the ladies' side of the Jalsa. The Lajna administration of the Jalsa Salāna Germany should keep reminding the ladies attending the Jalsa not to waste food. Another problem was that the accommodation provided to the guests was far off from the Jalsa site. The administration should provide the guests accommodation close to the Jalsa site. Also, the participants of the Jalsa should be reminded not to throw garbage here and there on the road; rather, they should try to keep the place neat and clean. Secondly, the guests should not make demands for any special food to be served to them. Whatever food is served during the Jalsa, one should be content with it and show patience.

Some volunteers become harsh with the guests. The volunteers should always treat the guests with kindness and facilitate them as much as possible.

The overall arrangements of the Jalsa this year were good. The Afsar Jalsa Salāna and his team have done much better this year. May Allāh give the best reward to all the volunteers of the Jalsa, who really worked hard for the Jalsa! Also, I would personally like to thank the volunteers of the Jalsa for the hard work they have done.

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Two mosques were also inaugurated during the trip. The inauguration ceremonies were attended by important dignitaries, who commended the noble work the Jamā'at is doing and expressed their good wishes for the Jamā'at.

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) addressed the participants of these events and gave interviews to the media. Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) also spoke about the coverage given to the Jamā'at programs by the media. Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that through electronic and print media the beautiful teaching of Ahmadiyyat Islām was conveyed to around 107 million in Germany.

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The Jalsa Salāna is not only a means of spiritual and religious training for the Jamā'at, but also helps convey the true picture of Islām to other people, who later take Bai'at and join Ahmadiyyat.

Next, Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) announced the sad demise of Rashida Begum, wife of Muhammad Din Badr Sahib, a dervish of Qādiān, and spoke about her services for the Jamā'at. Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that he would lead the funeral prayer in absentia of the deceased after the Jum'ah Prayer.

Friday 19 June 2015 Sermon at the Baitul-Futūh Mosque, Morden, London

Ramaḍān, the month of acceptance of prayers

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) highlighted the importance of Ramaḍān and urged the Jamā'at to take advantage of the month by truly benefiting from its blessings.

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: God has associated Ramaḍān with acceptance of prayers; therefore, try to spend both day and night in prayers to Allāh.

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: In order to benefit from Ramaḍān, it is important for us to become true servants of God and make every effort to protect ourselves against the attacks of the Satan.

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Today is the blessed day of Friday and the first day of Ramaḍān. The Holy Prophet صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم said that there is an occasion on Friday during which whatever a true believer prays for is granted to him. The Holy Prophet صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم also said that when Ramaḍān comes, the doors to Paradise are opened and the doors to hell are shut. God's mercy is particularly stirred during this month and Allāh showers the rain of His bounties and blessings upon the believers. The Holy Prophet صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم also described some conditions for us to attract Allāh's grace during Ramaḍān. He said that one should avoid improper talk, eschew chaos, mischief and abusive language during Ramaḍān.

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: God has associated the blessed days of Ramaḍān with acceptance of prayers. Addressing the Holy Prophet صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم God said: 'During the month of Ramaḍān when my servants ask you about Me, tell them that I am near and that I hear and grant the prayers of a person when he prays to Me'.

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: It is for this reason that Fridays that occur during Ramaḍān become doubly important. The days of Ramaḍān are the days of acceptance of prayers, and so are the nights in this month. Therefore, we should spend both day and night in Ramaḍān in supplications to Allāh and thus take best advantage of the blessed month.

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: When a believer sincerely bows down before his Lord, he not only witnesses the acceptance of his prayers, but also increases in faith and conviction, as he treads the path of piety and righteousness. Ramadān's blessings are granted only to those who sincerely act upon Allāh's commandments and increase in faith as well. A true believer should, therefore, spend the blessed days of Ramaḍān with extreme humility and humbleness and confessing his weaknesses and shortcomings.

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The heavy presence of worshippers for Jum'ah and other prayers these days should not be just temporary, but rather the houses of Allāh should be populated with the same fervor even after Ramaḍān. During these days, each one of us should particularly pray to Allāh that He may grant us His *Taqwa*, which is to love Him and fear Him. As long as we will continue to love Him and fear Him, He will continue to cover up our faults and keep us in His protection. As long as we will love Allāh truly, we will be safeguarded against destruction. God honors the love of His servants for Him. The Promised Messiah علیہ السلام repeatedly urged the Jamā'at to observe *Taqwa*. We should, therefore, express true humility before Allāh and become His servants trying to obtain closeness to Him.

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: God feels pleased when a person repents before Him. He is kinder than any mother and is willing to accept the repentance of His servants and show His pleasure towards them. The month of Ramaḍān also is to obtain the same purpose. If a person, despite having committed mistakes and shortcomings throughout the year, fills his heart with love for Allāh and gets closer to Him, God too runs towards him and lovingly embraces him. Still if a person fails to avail this opportunity, it is only the person's own misfortune betraying his hardheartedness.

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The Satan stands everywhere in our way and tries to tempt us. But, we have to confront him and protect ourselves against his attacks and become true servants of the Almighty God. Only then will we be able to truly benefit from the blessings of Ramaḍān. This will not only help us gain personal benefits, but the Jamā'at too will prosper and progress. It is, in fact, the reformation of the members of the Jamā'at, their pious acts and *Taqwa* which result in the progress of the Jamā'at.

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The Promised Messiah علیہ السلام said that his progress and victory depend upon prayers. We should, therefore, bow down before Allāh seeking His blessings for the Jamā'at as well for ourselves. Our prayers must not be confined to our own benefit or to the benefit of our close relatives, but rather there is a need to expand their scope. Pray fervently for the victory and triumph of the True Faith. May Allāh remove our weaknesses and cover up our faults! *Āmīn*. May He grant us such means as help us obtain our purpose! *Āmīn*. Pray that may the world that is denying that God exists should be able to recognize its Lord. May Allāh infuse into us such power and capacity by utilizing which we help the True Faith emerge victorious over all other religions! May Allāh make our actions and capabilities even stronger, and may we love pious deeds and may *Taqwa* (righteousness) get firmly rooted in our hearts, and may Allāh enable us to perform every action and say every word to the effect that it pleases Allāh. May Allāh enable us to make this Ramaḍān a source to obtain all these bounties for us? *Āmīn*.

Friday 26 June 2015 Sermon at the Baitul-Futūh Mosque, Morden, London

Show humility, discard arrogance and become true servant of God

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) urged the Jamā'at to fulfill the rights of Allāh and men by acting upon Allāh's commandments, purifying the self, showing humility, discarding arrogance and becoming a true servant of the Almighty God.

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Along with increased worship of Allāh, the month of Ramaḍān also draws our attention towards fulfilling the rights we owe to society.

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: We should spread peace and harmony in our society, homes and surroundings by putting an end to mutual discords and disorder.

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) quoted an extract of the Promised Messiah علیہ السلام wherein he said: Our Jamā'at must not confine itself to mere words and discourses, since this is not the real purpose. What is required is the purification of the self and reformation of practice as these are the things God has appointed me for. Sticking to the Faith, acting upon Allāh's commandments, reformation of the self and keeping it ever pure should be the objective of our life.

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: In order to fulfill the obligations of Bai'at, an Aḥmadī should always keep Allāh's commandments in view and put them in practice. In order to benefit from the special spiritual atmosphere of Ramaḍān, we ought to self-reflect and make them an essential part of our lives.

The Holy Qur'ān states that the servants of the Gracious God are those who walk on earth in a dignified manner and discard arrogance. A true servant of the Gracious God, therefore, has to be mindful that he is required to adopt humility and gentleness as well as purify himself of arrogance. God has granted these days of Ramaḍān to us, so that we may reform ourselves. Hence, we should spread peace and harmony in our society, homes and surroundings by putting an end to discords and disorder. We should adopt humility to such a degree that no one should consider himself superior to any one else in any respect. The Holy Prophet صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم said that no Arab is superior to a non-Arab and no non-Arab is superior to an Arab. True superiority lies in *Taqwa* (righteousness).

The Promised Messiah علیہ السلام said: Shun arrogance, for arrogance is extremely contemptible in the sight of Allāh, the Lord of Glory. Make sure you do not partake of arrogance in any respect so that you are not ruined and so that you may obtain salvation along with your children and wives. Try to love Allāh to the best possible extent one can love someone in the world and fear Him to the best possible extent one can fear someone in the world. Fear your Lord! Be pure of heart and pure of intention and adopt humility and humbleness, so that you are treated with mercy.

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) quoted the Promised Messiah علیہ السلام saying: It is not the way of Allāh to give a humiliating and disgraceful death to the one who prostrates himself humbly before Him. The one who turns to Him is never wasted. The plans of the one who establishes a true relationship with Him are never frustrated. The one who sincerely turns to Him never suffers any hardship and finds a way out of every difficulty. The one who establishes even a bit of relationship with Allāh is never wasted. Hence, we need to pay attention that these are the days which God has granted us to bring about a pure change in ourselves and seek the acceptance of our prayers.

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The month of Ramaḍān not only draws our attention to the worship of the Almighty God, but also to the fulfillment of our obligations towards society. A believer should, therefore, try to fulfill these rights during these days. According to one tradition, the Holy Prophet صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم would become so generous during Ramaḍān that his munificence could be likened to a very strong wind.

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The worship performed by a righteous person and a servant of the Gracious God not only enables him to fulfill the rights of Allāh, but also draws his attention towards fulfilling the rights of men. He who is not fulfilling both types of rights is not a true believer; rather he is from among those who are arrogant and boastful. God,

therefore, expects every believer to demonstrate such high morals. Indeed, the fulfillment of these rights makes one's worship worthy of acceptance. Among these rights are the rights of one's parents, relatives, the orphans, the needy, neighbors, friends, wayfarers and those for whose supervision one has been made responsible.

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) illustrated the details of these rights showing how they can be fulfilled and said: The Jamā'at should always keep in view the importance of these rights, since this spreads love and harmony in society. God Himself gets closer to and wants to bestow His bounties upon those during these days who fulfill the requirements of His worship and fulfill the rights of His creation.

The Promised Messiah علیہ السلام said: If you want God to be pleased with you in heaven, then be such towards each other as are two brothers from the same womb. Be kind to your subordinates, your wives and your needy brothers, so that you are treated with kindness in heaven.

Next, Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) announced the sad demise of Hidayat Bibi Sahiba, wife of Umar Ahmad Sahib (late), who was a dervish of Qādiān and of Maulana Muhammad Ahmad Saqib Sahib, a life-devotee and former teacher of Jāmi'a Ahmadiyya, Rabwah, Pakistan. Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) announced that he would lead the Funeral Prayer in absentia of the deceased after the Jum'ah Prayer.

Friday 3 July 2015 Sermon at the Baitul-Futūh Mosque, Morden, London

Rectify weaknesses during month of Ramaḍān

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Becoming a practical example of acting upon the injunctions of the Holy Qur'ān, office-bearers of the Jamā'at should fulfill their obligations and adorn themselves with high morals.

The Month of Ramaḍān not only draws our attention to all forms of Allāh's worship, but also reforms ourselves by rectifying our weaknesses and shortcomings.

Taqwa means that man abides by all the trusts of Allāh and the pledges of faith and fulfils the obligations and rights he owes to Allāh's creation to the best of his ability.

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: It is the duty of the office-bearers of the Jamā'at at all levels and of the missionaries to always keep in view Allāh's commandments and remind others of acting upon them. For this, office-bearers and the missionaries need to, first of all, self-reflect whether they themselves are trying to become an example for others in terms of following Allāh's commandments. Should this happen, more than 50% of the Jamā'at will by the grace of Allāh begin to act upon Allāh's commandments, and this will help us reform ourselves as well as inform the world of the truly desirable standards of morality.

The Month of Ramaḍān not only draws our attention to all forms of Allāh's worship, but also to our weakness and how we can rectify them. The moral standards of the followers of the Promised Messiah علیہ السلام should be very high and such that others should try to follow them. Unless there is a proper justification, one must not discard fasting and should try to fulfill all the requirements of worship.

Moreover, it was the practice of the Holy Prophet صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم to recite the Holy Qur'ān more frequently during Ramaḍān. Thus, it is essential to partake of all forms of Allāh's worship, offer *Nawāfil* with greater frequency and spend as much time as possible in the remembrance of God during Ramaḍān.

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: The Holy Qur'ān commands us to worship Allāh, so that we are able to inculcate *Taqwa*. However, I feel greatly embarrassed when I receive a complaint regarding some worker or office-bearer of the Jamā'at that he is lazy when it comes to Prayer, or that he does not attend the mosque for Prayer or that he does not even offer Prayer at home. We, therefore, need to remain ever vigilant and constantly watch the condition of our Prayers, so that we are able to obtain Allāh's grace and obtain spiritual progress.

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: God has also commanded us not to be dishonest with regard to the trusts assigned to us. The Promised Messiah علیہ السلام has enjoined upon us in the Conditions of Bai'at not to commit dishonesty. God says that a dishonest person can neither fulfill the rights of Allāh and His messenger nor of mankind. Dishonesty in fulfilling the rights of others leads one away from *Taqwa*. As a

result, even the worship of such a person is not accepted by Allāh. The Holy Prophetﷺ said: 'there are three things a believer cannot be dishonest with: to work with pure intention merely for the sake of Allāh; to inculcate goodwill for everyone and to live being an integral part of the Jamā'at'.

This fulfils the rights of Allāh, the rights of mankind and the rights of the Jamā'at'.

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) illustrated the three above-mentioned points in detail and drew the attention of the Jamā'at towards fulfilling the rights mentioned therein.

The Promised Messiah علیہ السلام said: 'One who does not repent or give up the trespass of the eye, betrayal of trust, bribery and all other unwarrantable means, is not from among my Jamā'at'.

The Promised Messiah علیہ السلام further said: Spiritual beauty and elegance comes from righteousness, and righteousness is to abide by all the trusts of God and pledges of faith as well as all trusts and pledges of mankind to the best of one's ability.

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: Another commandment of the Almighty God acting upon which adorns the society is that one should spend one's wealth in the way of Allāh, suppress anger, pardon one's fellow beings and treat them with kindness. At times, fulfilling others' rights requires sacrifice on the part of a person. The companions of the Holy Prophet ﷺgave preference to others' needs over their own needs despite the fact that they themselves were poor. The best example of this can be seen in the practice of the Holy Prophet ﷺ.

He trained his companions in such an excellent manner that they suppressed even their rightful anger and treated others with kindness.

The Promised Messiah علیہ السلام said: The purpose of raising this Jamā'at is that *Taqwa* (righteousness) penetrates one's tongue, ears, eyes, and all other faculties, that one becomes an excellent example of high morals and is absolutely free of unwarrantable anger. Should someone use uncivilized language against anyone, the aggrieved should wholeheartedly pray for such a person that may God help him reform himself. One should not let malice and rancor take root in one's heart. If you progress in these noble qualities, you will soon reach God.

Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: May Allāh enable us to raise the standards of our worship, adopt high morals and fulfill the rights we owe to others. Hazoor (May Allāh be his Helper) advised the Jamā'at to make special prayers during Ramaḍān for the progress of the Jamā'at, its protection from all kinds of mischief and the dominance of the True Faith.

Friday 10 July 2015 Sermon at the Baitul-Futūh Mosque, Morden, London

Reformation during Ramaḍān

The mercy of Allāh is nigh unto the Mohsinin.

The Mohsinin are those who use Ramadān as an enduring means of bringing about a pious transformation in themselves.

Istighfar means to pray to God that none of our human weaknesses may be exposed, and that He may take us under His own protection.

For every person, Laila-tul-Qadr is the moment when he becomes purified, his faith is strengthened, and he rids himself of all evil.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said: By the grace of Allāh, today is the 22nd day of Ramadān. According to the saying of the Holy Prophet, we have passed through the ten days of mercy and the ten days of forgiveness, and now we are passing through the last ten days which provide salvation from the fire of hell. However, we need to consider whether we have gained anything from the blessings of these days. The fact is that the injunctions of God and of the Holy Prophet are never without certain conditions, and in order to become deserving of mercy and forgiveness and being saved from the fire of hell during this month there are certain conditions that we have to meet. We have to find out what these conditions are so that we can reap the full blessings from Ramadān. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that God's mercy is of two kinds. The first is in the form of compassion (Ihsan) which man does not have to strive for and which benefits all people. The

second kind is conditional upon man's effort and striving, as Allah says, "Surely, the mercy of Allāh is nigh unto those who do good." (7:57) A Mohsin is one who does good to others, abides by Taqwa, possesses knowledge, and fulfils God's work with all its conditions. Such are the people on whom God has mercy and whose prayers are accepted. So if we desire for our prayers to be accepted, Page 2 of 3 then we must become Mohsin and make use of Ramadān to bring about a pious and enduring transformation in ourselves. We should, therefore, strive to absorb this mercy that will remain with us forever. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that since Satan is always lying in wait for us, hence it is important that having attained this mercy during the first ten days of Ramadān, we should during the next ten days seek help and power from Allāh, and this power is the power of Istighfar or repentance. The Holy Prophet has said that the middle ten days of Ramadān are a source of forgiveness. A true believer makes God's quality of covering faults and mercy a part of his life, both in worshipping Him, in doing good deeds, and in constantly seeking forgiveness. When we do this, God continues to cover us in the mantle of His mercy. The Promised Messiah says, "The true meaning of Istighfar is to supplicate God that none of our human weaknesses should be exposed, and that God may support our nature with His strength and might enclose it in the circle of His help and protection." Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that in declaring the middle ten days of Ramadān to be a source of blessing, the Holy Prophet has conveyed to us that in order to permanently partake of Divine mercy and to be saved from our natural shortcomings, we should find refuge with God through Istighfar—repentance. May God enable the majority of us to pass through these middle ten days of Ramadān bearing this in mind and seeking God's forgiveness. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that the Holy Prophet has descried the last ten days of Ramadān as the means to be saved from the fire of hell. That is to say, once a believer has been enveloped in God's mantle and has become established in Istighfar after having sought light from God, and constantly seeks forgiveness, then the door to hell will not only be closed for him during this month, but the permanent habit of worship, fulfilling one's obligations to God and His creatures, and seeking forgiveness will bar the door to hell forever. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that both the redemption from hell and attainment of paradise start in this world, and that it is the effects of these that are manifested in the next world in different shapes and forms. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that in the last ten days of Ramadān, believers have also been granted the tiding of Laila-tul-Qadr. But finding Laila-tul-Qadr is conditional upon faith and self-scrutiny. Anyone who passes through Ramadān and Laila-tul-Qadr with faith and self-scrutiny should be hopeful of God's forgiveness. A believer should always be mindful that that it is essential to abide by God's commandments. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that the time of a Prophet has also been given the name of Laila-tul-Qadr, but for an individual Laila-tul-Qadr is the Page 3 of 3 time when he is cleansed of this world's evil and filth, becomes firmly established on faith, and rids himself of all evil through self-security. May Allāh also enable us to find the particular Laila-tul-Qadr which is a special occasion for the offering of prayers. Āmīn

Friday 17 July 2015 Sermon at the Baitul-Futūh Mosque, Morden, London

Adopt the blessings of Ramadān as part of life

Exhortation about the importance and blessedness of Jumu'a,
and adoption of the blessings of Ramadān as a permanent part of our lives.

Every prayer, every Jumu'a, and every Ramadān is a salvation from sin until the next prayer,
the next Jumu'a, and the next Ramadān.

This Ramadān, this Jumu'a, and these prayers should serve as exhortations that we keep progressing in virtue.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that every prayer, every Jumu'a, and every Ramadān serves as a salvation from sin until the next prayer, the next Jumu'a, and the next Ramadān as long as one does not commit a cardinal sin. *Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper)* said that when a person usurps the rights of others, his prayer becomes a means of his destruction. Hence every Friday should bear witness that we have spent our days with the fear of God and have not done anything to merit His displeasure. The Holy Prophet ﷺ said that Friday is the best of days, and on this day you should invoke salutations on me, for they are presented before me on this day.

Huzoor said that offering the Jumu'a prayer will also bring about material progress. If you engage in your businesses and seek Allāh's blessings, you will surely be blessed. And if you miss out on some of your work for the sake of Allāh, He will surely make up for what you have lost. Thus this verse tells us that worldly businesses are also kind of Allāh's blessings, but while we are engaged in them we should not forget Allāh and should keep ourselves engaged with His remembrance.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that if you want this Jumu'a to be of significance for you, then you should bear in mind that the next Friday will be as significant and make a pledge to overcome your weaknesses. If we have this in our minds, we will be striving to seek Allāh's refuge from our sins, weaknesses, and short comings. May we remain steadfast on the virtues we have adopted in this Ramadān until we welcome the next Ramadān. It is therefore essential that we scrutinize ourselves as to whether we have attained a degree of *Taqwa* and whether or not we have taken any steps forward. *Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper)* said we should recite the Holy Qur'ān again and again and note down the evils that are mentioned in it, and then try to avoid them with the grace and help of God. This is the first step of *Taqwa,* and *Taqwa* will only be attained through good deeds. Faith means to shun evil altogether and to do good deeds with full sincerity. This Ramadān and this Friday should serve to remind us that we have to keep progressing in *Taqwa.*

Huzoor also asked the Jamā'at to pray for Ahmadīs who are going through hardship.

Friday 24 July 2015 Sermon at the Baitul-Futūh Mosque, Morden, London

Promised Messiah's love for his companions

Writings and observations of Hazrat Musleh Mau'ūd رضی اللہ عنہ regarding the Promised Messiah's علیہ السلام love for his companions and their fidelity and devotion towards him.

It is obligatory for every believer to follow the injunctions of the one appointed by God and remain steadfast upon righteousness and *taqwa.*

The Waqifīn should always keep before them the example of Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh I's رضی اللہ عنہ obedience and Maulvi Abdul Karim's رضی اللہ عنہ sacrifices.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) cited writings and observations of Hazrat Musleh Mau'ud رضی اللہ عنہ regarding the Promised Messiah's علیہ السلام love for his companions and their fidelity and devotion towards him. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) spoke about the revelation that was received by the Promised Messiah in 1908 pertaining to the proposed marriage between Hafiz Ahmadullah Khan Sahib's daughter Zainab and Sheikh Abdur Rehman Misri. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) elaborated on this revelation and its fulfilment. Hazrat Musleh Mau'ud رضی اللہ عنہ said that if Hafiz Sahib had accepted the Promised Messiah's علیہ السلام decision and had not given his daughter Zainab in marriage to Abdur Rehman Misri, her faith would not have been lost. It is essential to obey the words of the appointed one. If one follows their advice, instead of one's own conjectures, one's faith will not put in peril.

Hazrat Musleh Mau'ud رضی اللہ عنہ said that once a person from the Sikh community came to see the Promised Messiah's علیہ السلام father and asked him about his younger son (the Promised Messiah علیہ السلام), upon which his father said, "He is always in the mosque and I am worried as to how he will earn his livelihood. Whenever I speak to him about taking up an employment, he declines." When the Sikh gentleman conveyed his father's apprehensions to the Promised Messiah علیہ السلام, he replied, "My father is unduly worried. You can tell him that I have taken up the service of the One I want to serve."

Speaking about the sacrifices made by Hazrat Khalīfatul-Masīh I, Hazrat Musleh Mau'ud رضی اللہ عنہ said that he enjoyed great prestige in his hometown of Bhera. He had a prestigious job and there was a lot of scope for his practice to flourish in that area. He came to see the Promised Messiah علیہ السلام and when he thought of returning to Bhera, the Promised Messiah علیہ السلام asked

him to stay on in Qādiān, upon which he at once gave up all intentions of returning and sent someone else to fetch his belongings instead of going himself. From then on he gave up all thought of returning to his homeland.

With regard to sacrifices made by Maulvi Abdul Karim Sahib, Hazrat Musleh Mau'ud رضی اللہ عنہ said that he had no means of income whatsoever while he actually served as secretary to the Promised Messiah علیہ السلام. All the work that is being done by all the departments today was done by Maulvi Sahib singlehandedly. His sacrifice was equivalent to Hazrat Ibrahim's علیہ السلام sacrifice of leaving his wife and son in the barren wilderness. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that Waqifīn should always keep these examples before them and reflect on them. Maulvi Abdul Karim Sahib had such love for the Promised Messiah علیہ السلام as others cannot even fathom.

Hazrat Musleh Mau'ud رضی اللہ عنہ also spoke about Hazrat Munshi Arore Khan Sahib and his immense love for the Promised Messiah علیہ السلام and the Promised Messiah's علیہ السلام praise for him.

Hazrat Musleh Mau'ud رضی اللہ عنہ relates that once a person came to the Promised Messiah علیہ السلام and taunted him with regard to his pronunciation of certain Arabic words. At this Hazrat Sahibzada Abdul Latif Shahid lifted his hand to strike him, but the Promised Messiah علیہ السلام stopped him and said that this is the only weapon these people have and they can't help but resort to it, otherwise what was the need for my coming? Hazrat Musleh Mau'ud رضی اللہ عنہ said that it is foolish to be perturbed by such things. What is in a vessel is what will come out of it. We should remain steadfast on piety and *taqwa.* If someone makes derisive remarks, then walk away from his company, for this is what God commands. God blesses everything that is associated with His chosen ones.

At the end of the sermon Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) spoke about the sad demise of Maulvi Muhammad Yusuf Sahib, a Darvesh of Qādiān. He was the only Ahmadī in his family and had the honour to teach Qur'ān and Hadīth in Madrassa Ahmadiyya for many years. May Allāh forgive his shortcoming and grant him a lofty status in heaven. After the Jumu'a prayer, Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) led his funeral prayer in absentia.

Friday 31 July 2015 Sermon at the Baitul-Futūh Mosque, Morden, London

Establish relationship with Allāh

Teach the Holy Qur'ān in a way that inspires love and adoration for the Holy Book.

The faith that is of benefit to man is one that is immersed in true love and devotion.

A living miracle is the one that is manifested through one's own being,
but for this it is essential to establish a relationship with Allāh.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) said that the Holy Qur'ān should be taught in a manner that inspires love and adoration for God's holy book. The aim is to love the Holy Qur'ān and to read it from the heart, and not just superficially like the conventional *qaris* producing various sounds. God has commanded us to read the Holy Qur'ān with *tartil,* which means to read it slowly and as accurately as possible. It is not possible for everyone to pronounce like the Arabs. People of every land have their own ways of pronunciation, and indeed there are certain letters that cannot be accurately pronounced by anyone other than an Arab or one who has been brought up among the Arabs. But no qari or Arab can equal Bilal رضی اللہ عنہ who, even though he pronounced *Ash-hadu* as *As-hadu,* but was looked upon lovingly by the Holy Prophet صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم. The essence therefore is not to enunciate like a qari but to recite the Holy Qur'ān.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) cited some incidents highlighting the love and devotion of the Promised Messiah's علیہ السلام companions in the light of the sayings of Hazrat Musleh Mau'ud رضی اللہ عنہ.

While encouraging the Jamā'at to reform themselves, to strengthen their faiths, and to establish a relationship with Allāh, Hazrat Musleh Mau'ud رضی اللہ عنہ said if you inculcate piety and *taqwa,* if you acquire the habit of praying and remembering Allāh and offering *tahajjud* prayers, then surely God will bless you with a portion of true dreams and visions and will even bless you with His word and discourse. A living miracle is that which is manifested in one's own person. So if you want

to witness miracles, then you have to establish a true relationship with Allāh. In this context Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) cited the example of Hazrat Sahibzada Abdul Latif Sahib Shahid and said if one's faith is strong then one has nothing to fear from worldly people.

Speaking about the devotion people had for the Promised Messiah علیہ السلام before his claim and how it changed afterwards, Hazrat Musleh Mau'ud رضی اللہ عنہ said that in view of the popularity of *Barahin-e-Ahmadiyya* it can safely be said that hundreds of thousands of people revered the Promised Messiah علیہ السلام. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) cited some incidents to highlight this fact.

Hazrat Musleh Mau'ud رضی اللہ عنہ said that, as in other prophecies of the Promised Messiah علیہ السلام, the prophecy regarding Musleh Mau'ud also contains many signs. After elaborating on this point, he said that no one can make such claims on his own. Hazrat Musleh Mau'ud رضی اللہ عنہ also said that Ludhiana has various connections with the Jamā'at, for instance it was here that the Promised Messiah علیہ السلام took the first pledge of Bai'at. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) also narrated some other connection.

Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) also cited Hazrat Musleh Mau'ud's رضی اللہ عنہ description of the love and devotion for the Promised Messiah علیہ السلام that was demonstrated by his companions, such as Hazrat Mian Abdullah Sanori Sahib, Hazrat Munshi Zafar Ahmad Sahib Kapoorthalvi, and Hazrat Hakim Maulvi Nuruddin Sahib of Bhera. Hazrat Musleh Mau'ud رضی اللہ عنہ said that the example of love and devotion shown by these eminent companions was in no way inferior to the examples shown by people in the past. It is such sacrifices that distinguish a Jamā'at in the eyes of God, and such is the status that everyone should strive to attain. Faith on a philosophical level is of no use. The faith that is of benefit to man is that which has the element of love and devotion. A philosopher may make a thousand claims to love, but they have no more value than mere rhetoric, for he does not see the truth with the eyes of love but merely through reason. But he who sees God, not with the eyes of reason but with the eyes of love cannot be deceived, for philosophy comes from the mind while love comes from the heart. May Allāh enable us to recognize the Imam of the age through the eyes of the heart and to remain steadfast in our faith.

At the end of the sermon Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) informed the Jamā'at of the sad demise of Maulvi Khurshid Ahmad Sahib Parbhakar, a *Dervesh* of Qādiān, who was the son of Chaudhary Nawab Din Sahib. Huzoor (May Allāh be his Helper) led his funeral prayer in absentia after the Friday prayers.

Children of Paradise

Rashid Arshed, LA Inland

It was an unseasonably pleasant day in otherwise hot Los Angeles summer in June. The westerly breeze gently pushed the grey clouds across the sky. The cheerful weather added to the serene and the spiritual atmosphere of the mosque. I drove into the gate of *Baitul-Hameed* Mosque reciting the specified prayer: "O Lord, forgive my sins and open the doors of mercy for me".

I parked my car in the parking lot close to the main entrance and walked towards the washrooms for *Wuḍū.* As soon as I entered, I saw a little boy about four years old who had just finished his *Wuḍū* and was drying his hands with a paper towel. I said *As-Salāmu 'Alaikum* to him and extended my right arm for a handshake. The boy quickly freed his right hand shifting the wet paper to his left hand. I was delighted that his parents had taught this child to use the right hand for handshake following *Sunnah.* When I asked the boy his name he replied in his soft gentle voice. He paid full attention to me while I spoke with him and he was very respectful in his own little way.

I thought of his parents who taught him the basic etiquette of Islam; his father standing in the corner doing his *Wuḍū.* I complemented the father and let him know how pleased I was with his son's manners.

Every time I see the youth in the mosque, praying or participating in a function, I am overwhelmed with joy and think of how their dedicated mothers are training their children in correct Islamic ways. They are practically proving that the Paradise lies under their feet, *Mā Shā' Allāh.*

Gratitude Is the Best Attitude

Presented by Anwer Mahmood Khan

حَذَرَ الْمَوْتِ ۪ فَقَالَ لَهُمُ اللّٰهُ مُوْتُوْا ثُمَّ اَحْيَاهُمْ ؕ اِنَّ اللّٰهَ لَذُوْ فَضْلٍ عَلَى النَّاسِ وَ لٰكِنَّ اَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَشْكُرُوْنَ ﴿۲۴۴﴾

Dost thou not know of those who went forth from their homes, and they were thousands, fearing death? And Allah said to them: 'Die;' then He brought them to life. Surely, Allah is Munificent to men, but most men are not grateful. [2 Al-Baqarah : 244]

کیا تجھے ان لوگوں کی اطلاع نہیں جو موت کے ڈر سے اپنے گھروں سے نکلے، اور وہ ہزاروں کی تعداد میں تھے۔ تو اللہ نے ان سے کہا تم موت قبول کرو۔ اور پھر (اس طرح) انہیں زندہ کر دیا۔ یقیناً اللہ لوگوں پر بہت فضل کرنے والا ہے لیکن اکثر لوگ (اس کا) شکر ادا نہیں کرتے۔

وَ مَا مُحَمَّدٌ اِلَّا رَسُوْلٌ ۚ قَدْ خَلَتْ مِنْ قَبْلِهِ الرُّسُلُ ؕ اَفَا۟ئِنْ مَّاتَ اَوْ قُتِلَ انْقَلَبْتُمْ عَلٰۤى اَعْقَابِكُمْ ؕ وَ مَنْ يَّنْقَلِبْ عَلٰى عَقِبَيْهِ فَلَنْ يَّضُرَّ اللّٰهَ شَيْـًٔا ؕ وَ سَيَجْزِى اللّٰهُ الشّٰكِرِيْنَ ﴿۱۴۵﴾

And Muhammad is only a Messenger. Verily, all Messengers have passed away before him. If then he die or be slain, will you turn back on your heels? And he who turns back on his heels shall not harm Allah at all. And Allah will certainly reward the grateful. [3 Āl Imrān: 145]

اور محمد نہیں ہے مگر ایک رسول۔ یقیناً اس سے پہلے رسول گزر چکے ہیں۔ پس کیا اگر یہ بھی وفات پا جائے یا قتل ہو جائے تو تم اپنی ایڑیوں کے بل پھر جاؤ گے؟ اور جو بھی اپنی ایڑیوں کے بل پھر جائے گا تو وہ ہرگز اللہ کو کوئی نقصان نہیں پہنچا سکے گا۔ اور اللہ یقیناً شکر گزاروں کو جزا دے گا۔

وَ مَا كَانَ لِنَفْسٍ اَنْ تَمُوْتَ اِلَّا بِاِذْنِ اللّٰهِ كِتٰبًا مُّؤَجَّلًا ؕ وَ مَنْ يُّرِدْ ثَوَابَ الدُّنْيَا نُؤْتِهٖ مِنْهَا ۚ وَ مَنْ يُّرِدْ ثَوَابَ الْاٰخِرَةِ نُؤْتِهٖ مِنْهَا ؕ وَ سَنَجْزِى الشّٰكِرِيْنَ ﴿۱۴۶﴾

وَ اٰتٰىكُمْ مِّنْ كُلِّ مَا سَاَلْتُمُوْهُ ؕ وَ اِنْ تَعُدُّوْا نِعْمَتَ اللّٰهِ لَا تُحْصُوْهَا ؕ اِنَّ الْاِنْسَانَ لَظَلُوْمٌ كَفَّارٌ ﴿۳۵﴾

And He gave you all that you wanted of Him; and if you try to count the favours of Allah, you will not be able to number them. Verily, man is very unjust, very ungrateful. [14 Ibrāhīm : 35]

اور اُس نے ہر چیز میں سے تمہیں دیا جو تم نے اس سے مانگی اور اگر تم اللہ کی نعمتیں گنو تو کبھی اُن کا شمار نہ کر سکو گے۔ یقیناً انسان بہت ظلم کرنے والا (اور) بہت ناشکرا ہے۔

وَ اِنْ تَعُدُّوْا نِعْمَةَ اللّٰهِ لَا تُحْصُوْهَا ؕ اِنَّ اللّٰهَ لَغَفُوْرٌ رَّحِيْمٌ ﴿۱۹﴾

And if you try to count the favours of Allah, you will not be able to number them. Surely, Allah is Most Forgiving, Merciful. [16 Al-Naḥl : 19]

اور اگر تم اللہ کی نعمت کو شمار کرنا چاہو تو اسے احاطہ میں نہ لا سکو گے۔ یقیناً اللہ بہت بخشنے والا (اور) بار بار رحم کرنے والا ہے۔

فَاذْكُرُوْنِىْۤ اَذْكُرْكُمْ وَ اشْكُرُوْا لِىْ وَ لَا تَكْفُرُوْنِ ﴿۱۵۳﴾

Therefore remember Me, and I will remember you; and be thankful to Me and do not be ungrateful to Me. [2 Al-Baqarah : 153]

پس میرا ذکر کیا کرو میں بھی تمہیں یاد رکھوں گا۔ اور میرا شکر کرو اور میری ناشکری نہ کرو۔

يٰۤاَيُّهَا الَّذِيْنَ اٰمَنُوْا كُلُوْا مِنْ طَيِّبٰتِ مَا رَزَقْنٰكُمْ وَ اشْكُرُوْا لِلّٰهِ اِنْ كُنْتُمْ اِيَّاهُ تَعْبُدُوْنَ ﴿۱۷۳﴾

O ye who believe! eat of the good things We have provided for you, and render thanks to Allah, if it is He Whom you worship. [2 Al-Baqarah : 173]

اے وہ لوگو جو ایمان لائے ہو! جو رزق ہم نے تمہیں دیا ہے اس میں سے پاکیزہ چیزیں کھاؤ اور اللہ کا شکر ادا کرو اگر تم اسی کی عبادت کرتے ہو۔

اَلَمْ تَرَ اِلَى الَّذِيْنَ خَرَجُوْا مِنْ دِيَارِهِمْ وَ هُمْ اُلُوْفٌ

And no soul can die except by Allah's leave — a decree with a fixed term. And whoever desires the reward of the present world, We will give him thereof; and whoever desires the reward of the life to come, We will give him thereof; and We will surely reward the grateful. [3 Āl Imrān : 146]

اور کسی جان کے لئے مرنا ممکن نہیں سوائے اس کے کہ اللہ کے اِذن سے ہو۔ یہ ایک طے شدہ نوشتہ ہے۔ اور جو کوئی دنیا کا ثواب چاہے ہم اُسے اس میں سے عطا کرتے ہیں۔ اور جو کوئی آخرت کا ثواب چاہے ہم اُسے اسی میں سے عطا کرتے ہیں۔ اور ہم شکر کرنے والوں کو یقیناً جزا دیں گے۔

مَا يَفْعَلُ اللّٰهُ بِعَذَابِكُمْ اِنْ شَكَرْتُمْ وَ اٰمَنْتُمْ ؕ وَ كَانَ اللّٰهُ شَاكِرًا عَلِيْمًا ﴿۱۴۸﴾

Why should Allah punish you, if you are thankful and if you believe? And Allah is Appreciating, All-Knowing. [4 Al-Nisā : 148]

اگر تم شکر کرو اور ایمان لے آؤ تو اللہ تمہیں عذاب دے کر کیا کرے گا۔ اور اللہ شکر کا بہت حق ادا کرنے والا (اور) دائمی علم رکھنے والا ہے۔

ثُمَّ لَاٰتِيَنَّهُمْ مِّنْۢ بَيْنِ اَيْدِيْهِمْ وَ مِنْ خَلْفِهِمْ وَ عَنْ اَيْمَانِهِمْ وَ عَنْ شَمَآئِلِهِمْ ؕ وَ لَا تَجِدُ اَكْثَرَهُمْ شٰكِرِيْنَ ﴿۱۸﴾

'Then will I surely come upon them from before them and from behind them and from their right and from their left, and Thou wilt not find most of them to be grateful.' [7 Al-A'rāf : 18]

پھر میں ضرور اُن تک ان کے سامنے سے بھی اور ان کے پیچھے سے بھی اور ان کے دائیں سے بھی اور ان کے بائیں سے بھی آؤں گا۔ اور تو ان میں سے اکثر کو شکر گزار نہیں پائے گا۔

وَ الْبَلَدُ الطَّيِّبُ يَخْرُجُ نَبَاتُهٗ بِاِذْنِ رَبِّهٖ ۚ وَ الَّذِيْ خَبُثَ لَا يَخْرُجُ اِلَّا نَكِدًا ؕ كَذٰلِكَ نُصَرِّفُ الْاٰيٰتِ لِقَوْمٍ يَّشْكُرُوْنَ ﴿۵۹﴾

And as for the good land, its vegetation comes forth plentifully by the command of its Lord; and that which is bad, its vegetation does not come forth but scantily. In like manner do We vary the Signs for a people who are grateful. [7 Al-A'rāf : 59]

اور پاک مُلک (وہ ہوتا ہے کہ) اس کا سبزہ اس کے ربّ کے اِذن سے (پاک ہی) نکلتا ہے اور جو ناپاک ہو (اس میں) کچھ نہیں نکلتا مگر ردّی (چیز)۔ اسی طرح ہم نشانات کو پھیر پھیر کر بیان کرتے ہیں ان لوگوں کی خاطر جو شکر کیا کرتے ہیں۔

قَالَ يٰمُوْسٰۤى اِنِّى اصْطَفَيْتُكَ عَلَى النَّاسِ بِرِسٰلٰتِيْ وَ بِكَلَامِيْ ۖ فَخُذْ مَاۤ اٰتَيْتُكَ وَ كُنْ مِّنَ الشّٰكِرِيْنَ ﴿۱۴۵﴾

God said, 'O Moses, I have chosen thee above the people of thy time by My messages and by My word. So take hold of that which I have given thee and be of the grateful.' [7 Al-A'rāf : 145]

اس نے کہا اے موسیٰ! یقیناً میں نے تجھے اپنے پیغامات اور کلام کے ذریعہ سب لوگوں پر فوقیت بخشی ہے۔ پس اُسے پکڑے رکھ جو میں نے تجھے دیا اور شکر گزاروں میں سے ہو جا۔

وَ اللّٰهُ اَخْرَجَكُمْ مِّنْۢ بُطُوْنِ اُمَّهٰتِكُمْ لَا تَعْلَمُوْنَ شَيْـًٔا ۙ وَّ جَعَلَ لَكُمُ السَّمْعَ وَ الْاَبْصَارَ وَ الْاَفْـِٕدَةَ ۙ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَشْكُرُوْنَ ﴿۷۹﴾

And Allah brought you forth from the wombs of your mothers while you knew nothing, and gave you ears and eyes and hearts, that you might be grateful. [16 Al-Nahl : 79]

اور اللہ نے تمہیں تمہاری ماؤں کے پیٹوں سے نکالا جب کہ تم کچھ نہیں جانتے تھے اور اس نے تمہارے لئے کان اور آنکھیں اور دل بنائے تا کہ تم شکر ادا کرو۔

وَ لَقَدْ اَرْسَلْنَا مُوْسٰى بِاٰيٰتِنَاۤ اَنْ اَخْرِجْ قَوْمَكَ مِنَ الظُّلُمٰتِ اِلَى النُّوْرِ ۙ وَ ذَكِّرْهُمْ بِاَيّٰىمِ اللّٰهِ ؕ اِنَّ فِيْ ذٰلِكَ لَاٰيٰتٍ لِّكُلِّ صَبَّارٍ شَكُوْرٍ ﴿۶﴾

And We did send Moses with Our Signs, saying, 'Bring forth thy people from everykind of darkness into light, and remind them of the days of Allah.' Surely, therein are Signs for every patient and thankful person. [14 Ibrāhīm : 6]

اور یقیناً ہم نے موسیٰ کو اپنے نشانات کے ساتھ (یہ اِذن دے کر) بھیجا کہ اپنی قوم کو اندھیروں سے روشنی کی طرف نکال لا اور انہیں اللہ کے دن یاد کرا۔ یقیناً اس میں ہر بہت صبر کرنے والے (اور) بہت شکر کرنے والے کے لئے بہت سے نشانات ہیں۔

وَ اِذْ تَاَذَّنَ رَبُّكُمْ لَئِنْ شَكَرْتُمْ لَاَزِيْدَنَّكُمْ وَ لَئِنْ كَفَرْتُمْ اِنَّ عَذَابِيْ لَشَدِيْدٌ ﴿۸﴾

And remember also the time when your Lord declared, 'If you are grateful, I will, surely, bestow more favours on you; but if you are ungrateful, then know that My punishment is severe indeed.' [14 Ibrāhīm : 8]

اور جب تمہارے ربّ نے یہ اعلان کیا کہ اگر تم شکر ادا کرو گے تو میں ضرور تمہیں بڑھاؤں گا اور اگر تم ناشکری کرو گے تو یقیناً میرا عذاب بہت سخت ہے۔

وَ لَقَدْ اٰتَيْنَا لُقْمٰنَ الْحِكْمَةَ اَنِ اشْكُرْ لِلّٰهِ ؕ وَ مَنْ يَّشْكُرْ فَاِنَّمَا يَشْكُرُ لِنَفْسِهٖ ۚ وَ مَنْ كَفَرَ فَاِنَّ اللّٰهَ غَنِيٌّ حَمِيْدٌ ﴿۱۳﴾

And We bestowed wisdom on Luqman, saying, 'Be grateful to Allah:' and whoso is grateful, is grateful only for the good of his own soul. And whoso is ungrateful, then surely Allah is Self-Sufficient, Praiseworthy. [31 Luqmān : 13]

اور یقیناً ہم نے لقمان کو حکمت عطا کی تھی (یہ کہتے ہوئے) کہ اللہ کا شکر ادا کر اور جو بھی شکر ادا کرے تو وہ محض اپنے نفس کی بھلائی کے لئے ہی شکر ادا کرتا ہے اور جو ناشکری کرے تو یقیناً اللہ غنی ہے (اور) بہت صاحبِ تعریف ہے۔

وَ وَصَّيْنَا الْاِنْسَانَ بِوَالِدَيْهِ ۚ حَمَلَتْهُ اُمُّهٗ وَهْنًا عَلٰى وَهْنٍ وَّ فِصٰلُهٗ فِيْ عَامَيْنِ اَنِ اشْكُرْ لِيْ وَ لِوَالِدَيْكَ ؕ اِلَيَّ الْمَصِيْرُ ﴿۱۵﴾

And We have enjoined on man concerning his parents — his mother bears him in weakness upon weakness, and his weaning takes two years — 'Give thanks to Me and to thy parents. Unto Me is the final return. [31 Luqmān : 15]

اور ہم نے انسان کو اس کے والدین کے حق میں تاکیدی نصیحت کی۔ اُس کی ماں نے اُسے کمزوری پر کمزوری میں اٹھائے رکھا۔ اور اس کا دودھ چھڑانا دو سال میں (مکمل) ہوا۔ (اُسے ہم نے یہ تاکیدی نصیحت کی) کہ میرا شکر ادا کر اور اپنے والدین کا بھی۔ میری ہی طرف لوٹ کر آنا ہے۔

اَلَمْ تَرَ اَنَّ الْفُلْكَ تَجْرِيْ فِي الْبَحْرِ بِنِعْمَتِ اللّٰهِ لِيُرِيَكُمْ مِّنْ اٰيٰتِهٖ ؕ اِنَّ فِيْ ذٰلِكَ لَاٰيٰتٍ لِّكُلِّ صَبَّارٍ شَكُوْرٍ ﴿۳۲﴾

Dost thou not see that the ships sail on the sea by the favour of Allah, that He may show you of His Signs? Therein surely are Signs for everyone who is patient and grateful. [31 Luqmān : 32]

کیا تو نے غور نہیں کیا کہ سمندر میں کشتیاں اللہ کی نعمت کے ساتھ چلتی ہیں تاکہ وہ اپنے نشانات میں سے تمہیں کچھ دکھائے۔ اس میں یقیناً ہر بہت صبر کرنے والے (اور) بہت شکر کرنے والے کے لئے نشانات ہیں۔

ثُمَّ سَوّٰىهُ وَ نَفَخَ فِيْهِ مِنْ رُّوْحِهٖ وَ جَعَلَ لَكُمُ السَّمْعَ وَ الْاَبْصَارَ وَ الْاَفْـِٕدَةَ ؕ قَلِيْلًا مَّا تَشْكُرُوْنَ ﴿۱۰﴾

Then He fashioned him and breathed into him of His spirit. And He has given you ears, and eyes, and hearts. But little thanks do you give! [32 Al-Sajdah : 10]

پھر اُس نے اُسے درست کیا اور اُس میں اپنی روح پھونکی اور تمہارے لئے اس نے کان اور آنکھیں اور دل بنائے۔ بہت تھوڑا ہے جو تم شکر کرتے ہو۔

لَقَدْ كَانَ لِسَبَاٍ فِيْ مَسْكَنِهِمْ اٰيَةٌ ۚ جَنَّتٰنِ عَنْ يَّمِيْنٍ وَّ شِمَالٍ ؕ كُلُوْا مِنْ رِّزْقِ رَبِّكُمْ وَ اشْكُرُوْا لَهٗ ؕ بَلْدَةٌ طَيِّبَةٌ وَّ رَبٌّ غَفُوْرٌ ﴿۱۶﴾

فَاَعْرَضُوْا فَاَرْسَلْنَا عَلَيْهِمْ سَيْلَ الْعَرِمِ وَ بَدَّلْنٰهُمْ بِجَنَّتَيْهِمْ جَنَّتَيْنِ ذَوَاتَيْ اُكُلٍ خَمْطٍ وَّ اَثْلٍ وَّ شَيْءٍ مِّنْ سِدْرٍ قَلِيْلٍ ﴿۱۷﴾

ذٰلِكَ جَزَيْنٰهُمْ بِمَا كَفَرُوْا ؕ وَ هَلْ نُجٰزِيْۤ اِلَّا الْكَفُوْرَ ﴿۱۸﴾

وَ جَعَلْنَا بَيْنَهُمْ وَ بَيْنَ الْقُرَى الَّتِيْ بٰرَكْنَا فِيْهَا قُرًى ظَاهِرَةً وَّ قَدَّرْنَا فِيْهَا السَّيْرَ ؕ سِيْرُوْا فِيْهَا لَيَالِيَ وَ اَيَّامًا اٰمِنِيْنَ ﴿۱۹﴾

فَقَالُوْا رَبَّنَا بٰعِدْ بَيْنَ اَسْفَارِنَا وَ ظَلَمُوْۤا اَنْفُسَهُمْ فَجَعَلْنٰهُمْ اَحَادِيْثَ وَ مَزَّقْنٰهُمْ كُلَّ مُمَزَّقٍ ؕ اِنَّ فِيْ ذٰلِكَ

افسانے بنا دیا اور انہیں ٹکڑے ٹکڑے کر دیا۔ یقیناً اس میں ہر ایک بہت صبر کرنے والے (اور) بہت شکر کرنے والے کے لئے نشانات ہیں۔

فَتَبَسَّمَ ضَاحِكًا مِّنْ قَوْلِهَا وَ قَالَ رَبِّ اَوْزِعْنِيْٓ اَنْ اَشْكُرَ نِعْمَتَكَ الَّتِيْٓ اَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيَّ وَ عَلٰى وَالِدَيَّ وَ اَنْ اَعْمَلَ صَالِحًا تَرْضٰىهُ وَ اَدْخِلْنِيْ بِرَحْمَتِكَ فِيْ عِبَادِكَ الصّٰلِحِيْنَ ﴿۲۰﴾

Thereupon he smiled, laughing at her words, and said, 'My Lord, grant me the will and power to be grateful for Thy favour which Thou hast bestowed upon me and upon my parents, and to do such good works as would please Thee, and admit me, by Thy mercy, among Thy righteous servants.' [27 Al-Naml : 20]

وہ (یعنی سلیمان) اس کی اس بات پر مسکرایا اور کہا اے میرے ربّ! مجھے توفیق بخش کہ میں تیری نعمت کا شکر ادا کروں جو تو نے مجھ پر کی اور میرے ماں باپ پر کی اور ایسے نیک اعمال بجالاؤں جو تجھے پسند ہوں۔ اور تُو مجھے اپنی رحمت سے اپنے نیکوکار بندوں میں داخل کر۔

قَالَ الَّذِيْ عِنْدَهٗ عِلْمٌ مِّنَ الْكِتٰبِ اَنَا اٰتِيْكَ بِهٖ قَبْلَ اَنْ يَّرْتَدَّ اِلَيْكَ طَرْفُكَ ؕ فَلَمَّا رَاٰهُ مُسْتَقِرًّا عِنْدَهٗ قَالَ هٰذَا مِنْ فَضْلِ رَبِّيْ ۫ لِيَبْلُوَنِيْٓ ءَاَشْكُرُ اَمْ اَكْفُرُ ؕ وَ مَنْ شَكَرَ فَاِنَّمَا يَشْكُرُ لِنَفْسِهٖ ۚ وَ مَنْ كَفَرَ فَاِنَّ رَبِّيْ غَنِيٌّ كَرِيْمٌ ﴿۴۱﴾

Said one who had knowledge of the Book, 'I will bring it to thee before thy noblemessengers return to thee.' And when he saw it set before him, he said, 'This is by the grace of my Lord, that He may try me whether I am grateful or ungrateful. And whosoever is grateful is grateful for the good of his own soul; but whosoever is ungrateful, truly my Lord is Self- Sufficient, Generous.' [27 Al-Naml: 41]

وہ شخص جس کے پاس کتاب کا علم تھا اس نے کہا میں اسے تیرے پاس لے آؤں گا پیشتر اس سے کہ تیرا نگہبان دستہ تیری طرف لوٹ آئے۔ پس جب اس نے اسے اپنے پاس پڑا پایا تو کہا یہ محض میرے ربّ کے فضل سے ہے تا کہ وہ مجھے آزمائے کہ میں شکر کرتا ہوں یا ناشکری۔ اور جو بھی شکر کرتا ہے تو اپنے نفس کے

لَاٰيٰتٍ لِّكُلِّ صَبَّارٍ شَكُوْرٍ ﴿۲۰﴾

There was indeed a Sign for Saba' in their home-land: two gardens on the right hand and on the left: 'Eat of the provision of your Lord and be grateful to Him. A good land and a Most Forgiving Lord!' [34 Sabā : 16]

یقیناً سبا (قوم) کے لئے بھی ان کے مسکن میں ایک بڑا نشان تھا۔ دائیں اور بائیں دو باغ تھے۔ (اے قوم سبا!) اپنے ربّ کے رزق میں سے کھاؤ اور اس کا شکر ادا کرو۔ (سبا کا مرکز) ایک بہت اچھا شہر تھا اور (اس شہر کا) ایک بہت بخشنے والا ربّ تھا۔

But they turned away; so We sent against them a fierce flood. And We gave them, in lieu of their gardens, two gardens bearing bitter fruit and tamarisk and a few lotetrees. [34 Sabā : 17]

پھر انہوں نے انحراف کیا تو ہم نے ان پر ٹوٹے ہوئے بند کا (موجزن) سیلاب بھیجا۔ اور ہم نے ان کے لئے ان کے دو باغوں کو دو ایسے باغوں میں تبدیل کر دیا جو دونوں ہی بدمزہ پھل اور جھاؤ کے پودوں والے اور کچھ تھوڑی سی بیریوں والے تھے۔

That We awarded them because of their ingratitude; and none do We requite in this way but the ungrateful. [34 Sabā : 18]

یہ جزا ہم نے ان کو اس سبب سے دی کہ انہوں نے ناشکری کی۔ اور کیا سخت ناشکرے کے سوا بھی ہم کسی کو (ایسی) جزا دیتے ہیں؟

And We placed, between them and the towns which We had blessed, other towns that were prominently visible, and We fixed easy stages between them; 'Travel in them for nights and days in security.' [34 Sabā : 19]

اور ہم نے ان کے اور ان بستیوں کے درمیان جن میں ہم نے برکت بخشی تھی نمایاں دکھائی دینے والی بستیاں بنائی تھیں۔ اور اُن کے درمیان (بآسانی) چلنا پھرنا ممکن بنا دیا تھا۔ (منشا یہ تھا کہ) ان میں تم راتوں کو اور دنوں کو امن کی حالت میں چلتے پھرتے رہو۔

But they said, 'Our Lord, place longer distances between the stages of our journeys.' And they wronged themselves; so We made them bywords and We broke them into pieces, a complete breaking up. In that verily are Signs for every steadfast and grateful person. [34 Sabā : 20]

پھر (جب وہ ناشکرے ہو گئے تو) انہوں نے کہا اے ہمارے ربّ! ہمارے سفروں کے فاصلے بڑھا دے اور انہوں نے خود اپنے آپ پر ظلم کیا تب ہم نے ان کو

ذٰلِكَ الَّذِیْ یُبَشِّرُ اللّٰهُ عِبَادَهُ الَّذِیْنَ اٰمَنُوْا وَ عَمِلُوا الصّٰلِحٰتِ ؕ قُلْ لَّاۤ اَسْـَٔلُكُمْ عَلَیْهِ اَجْرًا اِلَّا الْمَوَدَّةَ فِی الْقُرْبٰی ؕ وَ مَنْ یَّقْتَرِفْ حَسَنَةً نَّزِدْ لَهٗ فِیْهَا حُسْنًا ؕ اِنَّ اللّٰهَ غَفُوْرٌ شَكُوْرٌ ﴿۲۴﴾

This it is whereof Allah gives the glad tidings to His servants who believe and do good works. Say: 'I ask of you no reward for it, except that I am inviting you to God because of love of kinship.' And whoso earns a good deed, We give him increase of good therein. Surely, Allah is Most Forgiving, Most Appreciating. [42 Al-Shūrā :24]

یہ وہی ہے جس کی اللہ اپنے اُن بندوں کو خوشخبری دیتا رہا ہے جو ایمان لائے اور نیک اعمال بجالائے۔ تُو کہہ دے مَیں اس پر تم سے کوئی اجر نہیں مانگتا، ہاں تم آپس میں اقرباء کی سی محبت پیدا کرو۔ اور جو کسی (معدوم) نیکی کو اُجاگر کرتا ہے ہم اس میں اسکے لئے مزید حُسن پیدا کر دیں گے۔ یقیناً اللہ بہت بخشنے والا (اور) بہت ہی شکر قبول کرنے والا ہے۔

وَ وَصَّیْنَا الْاِنْسَانَ بِوَالِدَیْهِ اِحْسٰنًا ؕ حَمَلَتْهُ اُمُّهٗ كُرْهًا وَّ وَضَعَتْهُ كُرْهًا ؕ وَ حَمْلُهٗ وَ فِصٰلُهٗ ثَلٰثُوْنَ شَهْرًا ؕ حَتّٰۤی اِذَا بَلَغَ اَشُدَّهٗ وَ بَلَغَ اَرْبَعِیْنَ سَنَةً ۙ قَالَ رَبِّ اَوْزِعْنِیْۤ اَنْ اَشْكُرَ نِعْمَتَكَ الَّتِیْۤ اَنْعَمْتَ عَلَیَّ وَ عَلٰی وَالِدَیَّ وَ اَنْ اَعْمَلَ صَالِحًا تَرْضٰىهُ وَ اَصْلِحْ لِیْ فِیْ ذُرِّیَّتِیْ ۚ اِنِّیْ تُبْتُ اِلَیْكَ وَ اِنِّیْ مِنَ الْمُسْلِمِیْنَ ﴿۱۶﴾

And We have enjoined on man to be good to his parents. His mother bears him with pain, and brings him forth with pain. And the bearing of him and his weaning takes thirty months, till, when he attains his full maturity and reaches the age of forty years, he says, 'My Lord, grant me the power that I may be grateful for Thy favour which Thou hast bestowed upon me and upon my parents, and that I may do such good works as may please Thee. And make my seed righteous for me. I do turn to Thee; and, truly, I am of those who submit to Thee.' [46 Al-Aḥqāf : 16]

اور ہم نے انسان کو تاکیدی نصیحت کی کہ اپنے والدین سے احسان کرے۔ اسے اس کی ماں نے تکلیف کے ساتھ اٹھائے رکھا اور تکلیف ہی کے ساتھ اُسے جنم

فائدہ کے لئے شکر کرتا ہے اور جو ناشکری کرتا ہے تو میرا ربّ یقیناً مستغنی اور صاحبِ اکرام ہے۔

اِنْ تَكْفُرُوْا فَاِنَّ اللّٰهَ غَنِیٌّ عَنْكُمْ ۫ وَ لَا یَرْضٰی لِعِبَادِهِ الْكُفْرَ ۚ وَ اِنْ تَشْكُرُوْا یَرْضَهُ لَكُمْ ؕ وَ لَا تَزِرُ وَازِرَةٌ وِّزْرَ اُخْرٰی ؕ ثُمَّ اِلٰی رَبِّكُمْ مَّرْجِعُكُمْ فَیُنَبِّئُكُمْ بِمَا كُنْتُمْ تَعْمَلُوْنَ ؕ اِنَّهٗ عَلِیْمٌۢ بِذَاتِ الصُّدُوْرِ ﴿۸﴾

If you are ungrateful, surely Allah is Self-Sufficient being independent of you. And He is not pleased with ingratitude in His servants. But if you show gratefulness, He likes it in you. And no bearer of burden shall bear the burden of another. Then to your Lord is your return; And He will inform you of what you have been doing. Surely, He knows full well all that is hidden in the breasts. [39 Al-Zumar : 8]

اگر تم انکار کرو تو یقیناً اللہ تم سے مستغنی ہے اور وہ اپنے بندوں کے لئے کفر پسند نہیں کرتا اور اگر تم شکر کرو تو وہ اسے تمہارے لئے پسند کرتا ہے۔ اور کوئی بوجھ اٹھانے والی کسی دوسری کا بوجھ نہیں اٹھائے گی۔ پھر تم سب کو اپنے ربّ کی طرف لوٹنا ہے۔ پس وہ تمہیں ان اعمال سے باخبر کرے گا جو تم کیا کرتے تھے۔ یقیناً وہ سینوں کے رازوں کو خوب جانتا ہے۔

بَلِ اللّٰهَ فَاعْبُدْ وَ كُنْ مِّنَ الشّٰكِرِیْنَ ﴿۶۷﴾

Aye, worship Allah and be among the thankful. [39 Al-Zumar : 67]

بلکہ اللہ ہی کی عبادت کر اور شکر گزاروں میں سے ہو جا۔

اَللّٰهُ الَّذِیْ جَعَلَ لَكُمُ الَّیْلَ لِتَسْكُنُوْا فِیْهِ وَ النَّهَارَ مُبْصِرًا ؕ اِنَّ اللّٰهَ لَذُوْ فَضْلٍ عَلَی النَّاسِ وَ لٰكِنَّ اَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا یَشْكُرُوْنَ ﴿۶۲﴾

It is Allah Who has made the night for you that you may rest therein, and the dayto enable you to see. Verily, Allah is the Lord of bounty for mankind, yet most men are ungrateful. [40 Al-Mu'min :62]

[40:62] اللہ وہ ہے جس نے تمہارے لئے رات کو بنایا تا کہ تم اس میں تسکین پاؤ اور دن کو دکھانے والا بنایا۔ یقیناً اللہ لوگوں پر بہت فضل کرنے والا ہے لیکن اکثر انسان شکر نہیں کرتے۔

دیا۔ اور اُس کے حمل اور دودھ چھڑانے کا زمانہ تیس مہینے ہے۔ یہاں تک کہ جب وہ اپنی پختگی کی عمر کو پہنچا اور چالیس سال کا ہو گیا تو اس نے کہا اے میرے ربّ! مجھے توفیق عطا کر کہ میں تیری اس نعمت کا شکر یہ ادا کر سکوں جو تُو نے مجھ پر اور میرے والدین پر کی اور ایسے نیک اعمال بجالاؤں جن سے تُو راضی ہو اور میرے لئے میری ذرّیّت کی بھی اصلاح کر دے۔ یقیناً میں تیری ہی طرف رجوع کرتا ہوں اور بلاشبہ میں فرمانبرداروں میں سے ہوں۔

نِّعْمَةً مِّنْ عِنْدِنَا ؕ كَذٰلِكَ نَجْزِیْ مَنْ شَكَرَ ﴿۳۶﴾

As a favour from Us. Thus do We reward him who is grateful. [54 Al-Qamar : 36]

[54:36] اپنی جناب سے ایک نعمت کے طور پر۔ اسی طرح ہم اُسے جزا دیا کرتے ہیں جو شکر کرے۔

اِنَّا خَلَقْنَا الْاِنْسَانَ مِنْ نُّطْفَةٍ اَمْشَاجٍ ۖ نَّبْتَلِیْهِ
فَجَعَلْنٰهُ سَمِیْعًۢا بَصِیْرًا ﴿۳﴾
اِنَّا هَدَیْنٰهُ السَّبِیْلَ اِمَّا شَاكِرًا وَّ اِمَّا كَفُوْرًا ﴿۴﴾

We have created man from a mingled sperm-drop that We might try him; so We made him hearing, seeing. [76 Al-Dahr : 3]

یقیناً ہم نے انسان کو ایک مرکّب نطفہ سے پیدا کیا جسے ہم طرح طرح کی شکلوں میں ڈھالتے ہیں۔ پھر اُسے ہم نے سننے (اور) دیکھنے والا بنا دیا۔

Thus, the Holy Prophet Muḥammad, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, advised to supplicate,

اللَّهُمَّ أَعِنِّي عَلَى ذِكْرِكَ وَشُكْرِكَ وَحُسْنِ عِبَادَتِكَ

O Allah help me to remember You, to thank You and to worship You suitably. (Abū Dawūd, Kitābuṣ-Ṣalāt)

An Interesting quote from Rick Warren, a noble scholar:

IN THE HAPPY MOMENTS
PRAISE GOD
IN THE DIFFICULT MOMENTS
SEEK GOD
IN THE QUIET MOMENTS
TRUST GOD
IN EVERY MOMENT
THANK GOD

We have shown him the Way, whether he be grateful or ungrateful. [76 Al-Dahr : 4]

یقیناً ہم نے اُسے سیدھے رستے کی طرف ہدایت دی۔ خواہ (وہ) شکر گزار بنتے ہوئے (چلے) خواہ ناشکرا ہوتے ہوئے۔

قُلْ هُوَ الَّذِیْۤ اَنْشَاَكُمْ وَ جَعَلَ لَكُمُ السَّمْعَ وَ الْاَبْصَارَ
وَ الْاَفْـِٕدَةَ ؕ قَلِیْلًا مَّا تَشْكُرُوْنَ ﴿۲۴﴾

Say, 'He it is Who brought you into being, and made for you ears and eyes and hearts; but little thanks do you give.' [67 Al-Mulk :24]

کہہ دے کہ وہی ہے جس نے تمہیں پیدا کیا اور تمہارے لئے کان اور آنکھیں اور دل بنائے۔ بہت کم ہے جو تم شکر کرتے ہو۔

فَبِاَیِّ اٰلَآءِ رَبِّكُمَا تُكَذِّبٰنِ ﴿۱۴﴾

Which, then, of the favours of your Lord will you twain deny, O men and Jinn? [55 Al-Raḥmān : 14]

پس (اے جن و اِنس!) تم دونوں اپنے ربّ کی کس کس نعمت کا انکار کرو گے۔

This verse is repeated 39 times.

Please observe:

وَ اَمَّا بِنِعْمَةِ رَبِّكَ فَحَدِّثْ ﴿۱۲﴾

And the bounty of thy Lord, proclaim. [93 Al-Ḍuḥā : 12]

اور جہاں تک تیرے ربّ کی نعمت کا تعلق ہے تو (اسے) بکثرت بیان کیا کر۔

(Graphic from etsy.com.)

The Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him, rightly wrote:

کیونکر ہو شکر تیرا، تیرا ہے جو ہے میرا
تو نے ہر اک کرم سے گھر بھر دیا ہے میرا
جب تیرا نور آیا، جاتا رہا اندھیرا
یہ روز کر مبارک، سبحان من یرانی

How can you be thanked?
Whatever is mine is Yours.
You have filled my home with Your favors.
Darkness lifted as your light appeared.
Bless this day, Holy is the One Who observes me.
(Mahmud Ki Aameen, 1897)

The Honorable Parents of the Holy Prophet

Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him

Compiled by Atika Sadeeqa, Los Angeles, California

Translated by A. Bushra Salam Bajwa, Gainesville, Florida

The history of the prophets bears testimony to the eternal way of Almighty God that He bestows the status of prophethood on those who are righteous. The Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) says,

> "The honorable father of the Holy Prophet (Ṣallallāhu 'Alaihi Wa Sallam), 'Abdullāh, was not a polytheist." (Malfūẓāt, Vol. 1, P. 23)

He writes,

> "It is indeed the eternal Law and the Way of Almighty God that He appoints only those people to invite others towards Him who come from the most respectable families and whose personal conduct is beyond reproach. Since the Exalted God is the Mighty and also the Wise, His Wisdom and His Expediency require that His prophets and appointees should be sent from such noble nations and families and be of such good moral character that no one should be opposed to obeying them. It is for this reason that all the prophets (may peace be upon them) have always originated from the best nations and families. It is an indication of this same Divine Wisdom and Expediency that Almighty Allāh has mentioned these two qualities with reference to the being of our most Respected and Highly Honorable Prophet (Ṣallallāhu 'Alaihi Wa Sallam) in the Holy Qur'ān; He says:
>
> "Surely a Messenger has come unto you from among yourselves" (9 [Al-Taubah] : 128).
>
> In other words, that Prophet has come to you who is the most noble of all in terms of his lineage and nation; he is a descendant from the most pure and respectable family of all. Almighty Allāh states in the Holy Qur'ān:
>
> "And put thy trust in the Mighty, the Merciful, Who sees thee when thou standest in prayer and Who sees thy movement among those who prostrate themselves before Allāh" (26 [Al-Shu'arā] : 218-220).
>
> In other words, put your trust in God, Who is the Supreme Being and Merciful. This same God sees you when you are inviting people to Him and when you are standing in prayer. This same God saw you at the time when as a seed you were carried through previous generations of righteous ones and then were borne eventually within the womb of your respected and pure mother, Āminah. And there are many other verses besides these which mention the most noble family, respectable nation and ancient revered tribe of our most respected and honored Prophet (Ṣallallāhu 'Alaihi Wa Sallam). (Tiryāqul-Qulūb, Rūhāni Khazā'in, Vol. 15, Pp. 280-281)

Within the tribes living in the land of Arabia, where each and every individual used to be recognized according to his/her tribe, each person would be considered worthy of respect and honor according to the rank and respect of his tribe. The tribe of the Quraish was one such tribe, within which the Banū Hāshim was considered the foremost of tribes, who, aside from fulfilling the rights and obligations due to their guests and to those who came to perform the Hajj in the great land of Makkah, was also paramount in its hospitality of guests and pilgrims, in its standard of piety, honesty, lawful earning, modesty and generosity, [acquisition of] knowledge, wisdom and insight. This is that same tribe and family who, in addition to having good moral character, had no equal in terms of its outer beauty and radiance. How then would this clan, the collective repository of all these qualities, not become the one in which would be born the living proof of the following couplet:

> The beauty of Yūsuf; the breath of Īsā, and the bright hand [of Mūsā],
>
> Whatever good attributes the great prophets all have collectively, [O Muḥammad sa] you alone possess.

Ḥaḍrat 'Abdul-Muṭṭalib

His real name was 'Āmir but due to his paternal uncle's high status, people called him 'Abdul-Muṭṭalib. He was also known as "Shaibatul-Ḥamd", meaning, a venerable with such white hair as to be worthy of praise. His paternal uncle, Muṭṭalib bin Munāf brought him to Makkah from Medina during his early youth.

Taunts arising due to of male offspring

In Arabia, family honor depended upon the number of male children. Ḥaḍrat ‘Abdul-Muṭṭalib had only one son, whose name was Ḥārith. During the course of conversation, people would deride him for not having sons. Consequently, he prayed: “O Allāh! My tribe taunts me for not having sons. If you grant me ten sons and they live to reach the prime of life then I shall sacrifice one son for Your sake.” As a result of this supplication, Allāh blessed him with nine more sons. (Al-Bidāyah Wa Al-Nihāyah)

Fulfillment of a promise made to God

In ‘The Life of the Prophets,’ Ibn Hishām writes: Ten sons were born in ‘Abdul-Muṭṭalib’s household who grew to be young men. To fulfill his promise, he gathered all ten of his sons—Ḥārith, Zubair, Abū Ṭālib, ‘Abdullāh, Ḥamza, Abū Lahab, Ḍirār, ‘Abbās, Al-Fidāq, [Al-Muqawwim]—and mentioned his pledge. Bravo to those sons who responded with one voice-“O (our) Father! Here we are, whatever you wish, we are here and ready!”

Ḥaḍrat ‘Abdul-Muṭṭalib said: “Each of you take an arrow and write your name on it so that a lot can be drawn. He took the ten arrows with each of the sons’ names written individually on them to the Ka‘ba. The lot was drawn—behold the decree of God—the draw came out with the name of his fourth son, ‘Abdullāh. In order to slaughter him, Ḥaḍrat ‘Abdul-Muṭṭalib took ‘Abdullāh’s hand, held a knife in his other hand, and made his way toward the place in the Ka‘ba where people used to offer sacrifices. The leader of the Quraish and ‘Abdullāh’s sisters began to weep and wail and tried to stop him. ‘Abdullāh’s maternal uncle, Mughīrah bin ‘Abdullāh bin Makhzūm opposed this vehemently and advised him to give Fidya in place of this sacrifice. Ḥaḍrat ‘Abdul-Muṭṭalib agreed to this suggestion. Ibn Kathīr has written in Al-Bidāyah Wa Al Nihāyah that the amount of Fidya was fixed at ten camels and that a lot would be drawn and if it came out on the camels, ten camels would be sacrificed; and if it came out with ‘Abdullāh’s name, it would be drawn again. This process would be repeated, with the number of the camels continuing to be increased by ten for as long as the draw continued to come out with the name of ‘Abdullāh.

Ibn Hisham has written in ‘Life of the Prophets’, the draw commenced; ‘Abdullāh was up against ten camels and the draw came out with ‘Abdullāh’s name. Consequently, according to the decision taken, ten more camels were added. However the draw came out with ‘Abdullāh’s name again on the second attempt and the same occurred on the third, to the point where the number of camels kept on increasing by ten until, on the tenth try, it reached to one hundred camels. At this time when the draw was made again, instead of ‘Abdullāh, it came out on the camels. All the people of the Quraish were overjoyed by this. In order to acquire the pleasure of His Lord, Ḥaḍrat ‘Abdul-Muṭṭalib had made the draw three times on one hundred camels and on ‘Abdullāh. The draw came out on the camels all three times. This gave him peace of mind and he sacrificed one hundred camels. Numerous people as well as animals ate the camel meat for days afterwards.

Initiation of Diyat

Historically speaking, in this great Arab city of Makkah, it was Ḥaḍrat ‘Abdul-Muṭṭalib who first initiated the sacrifice of camels as a form of recompense. Later, it was the most illustrious son of Ḥaḍrat ‘Abdullāh, the Holy Prophet (Ṣallallāhu ‘Alaihi Wa Sallam) who made it permanent till the day of judgement. (Al-Khasā’is Al-Kubrā, Jalālud-Dīn Suyūṭī)

Ḥaḍrat ‘Abdullāh

He was born in A.D. 545; his mother’s name was Fatimah bint ‘Amr bin Ā’idh. A twin sister was born with him (Umm Al-Ḥakīm Al-Baiḍā)

The Character of Ḥaḍrat ‘Abdullāh

He was exceptionally handsome, his simplicity was beyond compare; he was a very generous person. His character was exemplary. He was compassionate by nature and his famed virtues became an outstanding hallmark.

He was inherently good-natured and followed the religion of Abraham. He was a living illustration of integrity and a man of angelic qualities. He was completely engrossed with external and internal purity. Along with being the favorite of his brothers and sisters, he in turn was willing to lay down his life for them. He was an excellent tradesman.

His Demise and His Legacy

Ḥaḍrat ‘Abdullāh passed away in AD 570. He was about 25 at the time of his death. In the prime of his youth, he went to Yathrib as a trader of dried dates. He fell ill there and passed away in his maternal homeland and was buried there. Ḥaḍrat Āminah expressed her grief at his passing away:

At night, when his friends and mourners lifted his casket, there was a big crowd;

everyone was running to try and lend a shoulder, fearing that they might otherwise be deprived of that opportunity. (Al-Ṭabaqāt Al-Kubrā; Sharḥ Muwāhib al-Laduniyyah, Al-Qasṭalānī)

He left behind five camels, a small herd of sheep and goats, garment business, a dates and leather store, two male slaves, and a slave girl, Ummi Aiman.

Ḥaḍrat Āminah's Ancestry

Ḥaḍrat Āminah belonged to the tribe of Banū Zuhrah; she was a fourth generation relative of Kilāb; this same Kilāb was connected to 'Abdullāh through five generations. In this way, the ancestry of this virtuous and beautiful couple was one and the same. Ḥaḍrat Āminah's full name was Āminah bint Wahb bin 'Abd Manāf bin Zuhrah bin Kilāb (Al-Rauḍ Al-Unuf, Imām Suhailī).

Ḥaḍrat Āminah's Birth

Ḥaḍrat Āminah was born in A.D. 551. Her mother's name was Barrah bint 'Abdul-'Uzzā. Her ancestry in the fifth generation is connected to Qusayy. He was a forefather of the Holy Prophet (Ṣallallāhu 'Alaihi Wa Sallam).

Ḥaḍrat Āminah's Marriage

The tribes of Ḥaḍrat 'Abdullāh and Ḥaḍrat Āminah had always maintained cordial relations. Children from both sides used to mix and mingle with one another. Both groups joined in the other's joyful or sad occasions, consulted one another and discussed trade-related connections. Based upon all this, the two families were particularly close-knit. Ḥaḍrat 'Abdullāh's father, 'Abdul-Muṭṭalib, sent a marriage proposal, which was accepted without any hesitation (Sirah Bait Nabawiyya by Dr. Ā'isha bint Ash-Shāṭī). She was 20 years old at the time of her marriage. Just as with Ḥaḍrat 'Abdullāh, there was no shortage of marriage proposals for Ḥaḍrat Āminah; but something altogether different had been decreed. After the wedding, she remained with her in-laws for three days and then the couple moved to their own residence. However, this companionship lasted for only seven months, after which Ḥaḍrat 'Abdullāh passed away. However, he did leave with her his singular keepsake...

Ḥaḍrat Āminah's Three Visions

It is written in Al-Khaṣā'iṣ Al-Kubrā, that Ḥaḍrat Āminah related: "A vision was shown to me in which an angel came to me and asked me: 'Do you know that you are expecting a child?' I replied that I did not know. He told me: 'You are carrying a child who will be the Chief and a Prophet'. That day was a Monday. The same angel re-appeared close to the time of the delivery and said: 'Keep offering this prayer: I seek refuge for this child from Allāh the One and the Divine, that He protects him from the evil of every envier."

Then, while suffering labor pains, she had a vision at that exact time. She says: "I was alone in my house when I heard the sound of a terrifying explosion while 'Abdul-Muṭṭalib was performing the circuit of the Ka'ba. It sounded as if a wall had collapsed; I was frightened. I saw a white bird descending and it touched my heart with its wing. Subsequently my fear dissipated and the labor pain also vanished. Then I saw a white-colored drink in a bowl. I drank it. I saw a light coming near to me which was highly enhanced, and I saw women who were very tall (one narration states that these women were Āsiya and Maryam accompanied by Hūrs of Paradise); they were all around me and in the vision I am amazed by the fact that they know of my condition."

The detail of Ḥaḍrat Āminah's third vision is related in Al-Khaṣā'iṣ Al-Kubrā in her own words. She says:

"When I became pregnant, I heard a voice telling me: 'You are entrusted with the guardianship of such a being who will be the Leader of Nations, a sign for whose coming will be that, at the time of his birth, such a light will shine forth that it will illuminate the palaces of Basra. When this child is born, name him Muhammad."

The Holy Prophet himself (Ṣallallāhu 'Alaihi Wa Sallam) used to say: "I am the outcome of my father Ibrāhīm's prayers. I am the glad tidings given by 'Īsā, son of Maryam. I am the vision of my mother in which she saw with her own eyes that a light emanated from her body through which she saw the palaces of Syria. And this is precisely what is shown to the mothers of prophets."

A Noble Mother's Prayer

In keeping with Arab tradition, when the Holy Prophet (Ṣallallāhu 'Alaihi Wa Sallam) was handed over to his wet nurse Ḥalīmah Sa'diyyah, Ḥaḍrat Āminah prayed in the following words as she said goodbye to her son:

"I entrust my child to the Lord of Glory and seek His Protection for him from that evil which dwells in the mountains until I see him riding a camel and kind to the slaves and the needy." (Al-Ṭabaqāt Al-Kubrā)

Ḥaḍrat Āminah's Demise

Ḥaḍrat Āminah would visit her husband's grave annually in order to pray for him. The Holy Prophet (Ṣallallāhu 'Alaihi Wa Sallam) was a little more than six years old when she joined a caravan and left for Yathrib for the last time. Along with the Holy Prophet (Ṣallallāhu 'Alaihi Wa Sallam) she was also accompanied by their servant, Ummi Aiman. She remained there for a month and, on her return, she fell ill between Makkah and Medina, suffering from weakness, headache and fever. In AD 576, at the age of 25 years, following a few days of the illness, she was parted from her young child and returned to her Maker. She was buried in Abwā, at a place which could be seen from a distance at the top of a mountain.

Additional Praiseworthy Qualities

Further praiseworthy qualities include Ḥaḍrat Aminah's contentment with whatever she had or was given and simple, unassuming lifestyle. She was totally detached from polytheism and firmly entrenched in monotheism. Along with being acquiescent and obedient to her husband, she showed wisdom and diplomacy. Thus she did not object when, just a short while after her marriage, her husband had to go away somewhere on business. (Al-Rauḍ Al-Unuf, Imām Suhailī)

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Authors wishing to sell their book at the US Jalsa Salana should have the paperwork completed and books delivered a few weeks ahead of the event so that the books can be cataloged and barcodes placed for sale at Jalsa.

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Please type and send a soft copy of your English or Urdu contribution through e-mail to publications@ahmadiyya.us.

Please provide your name and phone number on the contribution.

Please indicate in the email if you want to see the edited version before its publication.

Please provide references for quotes from the Holy Qur'ān, Ḥadīth, Malfūzāt, any quotations and other sources.

Replacement of Tafsir Saghir printed in 2012 and 2014 in Qadian, India

Tafsīr Saghīr (Urdu) is being reprinted to correct an oversight in the 2012 and 2014 editions. If you have a copy, it will be replaced without cost. Please contact bookstore@ahmadiyya.us in case you have the 2012 or 2014 edition of Tafsir Saghir printed in Qadian.

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The Lamp Still Burns

Amjad Mahmood Khan Los Angeles, CA

Mecca, 570, a child is born
To a city of sin beleaguered and torn.
An orphan, a tradesman, a tribesman–
Al Sadiq; Al Amin; Muhammad, the one.
The lamp still burns–shining Allah's light.
My master, my model–my heart's delight.
An example that transcends rivalry or division–
A reputation that burgeons–of truth and immersion.
A widow of wealth, Khadija is drawn
To one whose charm is only spiritual brawn.
The lamp still burns–shining Allah's light.
My master, my model–my heart's delight.
An angel descends on an unlettered man
In a cave far away from clans and desert sands.
A father and husband now recipient of God's honor.
At Hira, in prayer, the world changes forever.
The lamp still burns–shining Allah's light.
My master, my model–my heart's delight.
In a land of confusion, a message of peace and reconciliation–
In a land of idolatry, a message of oneness and submission.
A Prophet is chosen; a law is revealed–
A revolution's ignited; all weakness concealed.
The lamp still burns– shining Allah's light.
My master, my model– my heart's delight.
The opposition mounts; enemies abound–
"Who's this Muhammad to turn our world upside down?"
Horses, camels, arrows and swords–
Anything and everything to make this prophet no more.
The lamp still burns–shining Allah's light.
My master, my model–my heart's delight.
A small band of brothers against a sea of disbelievers–
13 years a struggle against the cruelest of maneuvers.
"Might we take this mountain and level them?" the angels beseech.
"No, their generations may accept,"" the prophet retreats.
The lamp still burns–shining Allah's light.
My master, my model–my heart's delight.
Driven and beaten from the city he called home–
Undeterred, unswerved to protect the unity of his lord.
Outnumbered, outmatched in wars to defend Islam–
Yet there he stood in a tent at Badr praying all night long.
The lamp still burns–shining Allah's light.
My master, my model–my heart's delight.
At Uhud, a victory snatched into defeat–
A setback so severe a beautiful face now bleeds.
But for the hand of the Prophet's right hand man–
In Talha's courage, a love that brims, a lesson that withstands.
The lamp still burns–shining Allah's light.
My master, my model–my heart's delight.
Against discord and disunity, a bold gesture for hostilities to cease–
At Hudaibiyyah–a 10-year treaty of unconditional peace.
The prayers of a prophet unite feuding factions–
In unity, the enemies' injustices lose all traction.
The lamp still burns–shining Allah's light.
My master, my model–my heart's delight.
In Medina, an outlaw now turned a ruler–
But for his enemies, a charter, a shield, an arbiter.
To Jews and Christians, amnesty and protection–
To slaves in bondage, unconditional freedom.
The lamp still burns–shining Allah's light.
My master, my model–my heart's delight.
Until his last breath, a love for humanity in mass–
His final words a message to eviscerate race and class.
Another human so majestic the world has never seen–
His biographers unanimous – he's Rahmatul-lil-Alameen.
The lamp still burns–shining Allah's light.
My master, my model–my heart's delight.
1400 years later, they mock and they jeer
With cartoons and caricatures, a thin veneer.
But Gellar and Spencer, Maher and Gafney
How can they extinguish a fire that's everlasting?
For the lamp still burns–shining Allah's light.
My master, my model–my heart's delight.
My master, my model–my heart's delight.

Jama'at International News

Collected by Najm us Saqib

The 39th Jalsa Salana of Gambia took place on April 10th-12th, 2015. Over 8,000 members attended the Jalsa. (Al-Fazl International, Jun 12th)

Jamā'at has built a mosque in an ancient and historical village of Guerra N'Kali Tasse, Benin (West Africa). On April 19th, an inauguration ceremony was held to mark the opening of the Mosque. The total attendance was 785, which included numerous dignitaries and local politicians. (Al-Fazl International, Jun 12th)

The 18th Jalsa Salana of Kinshasa, Congo took place on 22nd February 2015. Over 600 members attended the Jalsa. (Al-Fazl International, Jun 12th)

The 3rd Jalsa Salana of Guyana (Berbice County) took place on 12th April 2015. The total attendance was 80 that included 20 guests and 60 members. (Al-Fazl International, Jun 19th)

A region in Togo (West Africa) held "Khilafat Day" on 24th May 2015. This program was attended by 315 members. (Al-Fazl International, Jun 19th)

A region in Ivory Coast (West Africa) held two days Jalsa for new converts (Nau Muba'i'in). More than 350 members attended the event from 18 villages. (Al-Fazl International, Jun 19th)

Jamā'at India Fatehpur Sikri held Promised Messiah day on 23rd March 2015. About 100 non-Ahmadi guests attended the event. A Q/A session was held after the meeting. Eight persons entered Jamā'at after the Q/A session. (Al-Badr, 4 June)

By the Grace of Allah, Khilāfat Day was held on 27th May 2015 at Masjid Aqsa, Qadian. The program was presided by Munir Ahmad Hafizabadi, Wakil-ul-A'la Tahrik e Jadid, India. (Al-Badr, 18 June)

The 2nd annual convention was held by Lajna Ima'illah Norway on May 6th 2015 at Baitun-Nasr Mosque Oslo. The theme of the event was "Love for All Hatred for None." The program was attended by 102 non-Ahmadi guests and 105 members. Total attendance was 207. (Al-Fazl, Rabwah 4 Jun)

The western region of Fiji held Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) day on March 22nd 2015. Speech topics included "The truthfulness of the Promised Messiah before his claims" and "Life of the Promised Messiah after the establishment of Jamā'at". The event was attended by 10 guests and 130 members. (Al-Fazl, Rabwah, 29 Jun)

By the Grace of Allah, a blood drive was held in Kinshasa region of Congo on 14 June 2015. It was widely covered by press and media. About 56 people donated blood at this blood drive. (Alfazl International 3 July 2015)

The 33rd IAAAE Pakistan convention was held on 19 April 2015. The program was attended by 287 members from 21 different cities. The event was also live streamed on internet. (Al-Fazl International, 10 July 2015)

The 7th International Masroor Cricket tournament was held in UK from 22-25 May 2015; 20 teams from 13 various countries participated in the tournament. The final match was held between Germany and UK teams. The winner of this tournament was Team UK. (Al-Fazl International, 10 July 2015)

Jamā'at Aḥmadiyya Congo Brazzaville held their 6th Jalsa Sālāna on 13,14 June 2015. Numerous speeches were delivered on various topics. The total attendance of the Jalsa was 426. (Al-Fazl International 17 July 2015)

The 7th Jalsa Sālāna of Congo (Province Bakongo) took place on 6,7 February 2015. The preparations of the Jalsa were started a month earlier. Over 600 members attended the Jalsa. (Al-Fazl International 24 July 2015)

The 13th Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya National Ijtima was held in Benin (west Africa) on 10,11,12 April 2015. The attendance was over 800, which was almost double from last year. (Al-Fazl International 31 July 2015)

Jamā'at Aḥmadiyya Japan participated in the 22nd Tokyo International book fair. It was a very successful program. Numerous people left positive remarks about the beautiful teachings of Islam. This year people from 20 different countries visited the Jamā'at bookstall and bought literature in 13 different languages. (Al-Fazl International 21 Aug 2015)

Guyana (South America) held their first regional Jalsa Sālāna on 14 Jun 2015. About 70 members attended the Jalsa. (Al-Fazl International, 21 Aug 2015)

Jamā'at Aḥmadiyya Congo Province Kinshasa held their 18th Jalsa Sālāna on 22 Feb 2015. The Jalsa was given wide coverage by press and media. Total

attendance was over 600. (Al-Fazl Rabwah 23 July 2015)

Jamā'at Aḥmadiyya Gambia held their 39th Jalsa Sālāna on 10,11,12 April 2015. Respected brother Ibrahim Ikhlaf was sent by Huzur (may Allah be his Helper) from Markaz. Jalsa was given wide coverage by press and media. Over 8000 members attended this Jalsa. (Al-Fazl Rabwah, 1 Aug 2015)

By the Grace of Allah, Jamā'at Aḥmadiyya Marshall Islands held their 1st Jalsa Sālāna 3-5 April 2015. The Jalsa was given coverage by the national newspaper "The Marshall Islands Journal." Total attendance was 240. (Al-Fazl Rabwah, 20 Aug 2015)

Members can also pay for the new subscription, renewal or gifts to the local finance secretary and email the receipt number and mailing address to usa@reviewofreligions.org.

Jalsa Sālāna Germany 2015 Concludes With Faith Inspiring Address by Head of the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community

More than 36,000 people attend three-day convention in Karlsruhe

The World Head of the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community, the Fifth Khalīfa, His Holiness, Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, concluded the 40th Annual Convention (Jalsa Sālāna) of the Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community in Germany on 7 June 2015 with an inspirational address regarding the importance of spreading the true peaceful message of Islam to all parts of the world.

Prior to the session, His Holiness also led more than 36,000 Ahmadi Muslims in a pledge of allegiance (*Bai'at*) ceremony.

During his address, His Holiness said that the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community was now far better known across Germany, among both the general population and its leaders, as compared to just a few years ago. For example, the community was now officially recognized as an authority on Islam in *Hesse* State. His Holiness said that this was a direct result of divine support and help.

Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad said that it was the duty of every single Ahmadi Muslim to spread the true and peaceful message of Islam. His Holiness said that Ahmadi Muslims would never use force but would always seek to persuade others with love and reason alone.

His Holiness said that the Holy Prophet (*peace be upon him*) taught that a person should desire for others what they preferred for themselves and it was with this spirit that Ahmadi Muslims sought to propagate the message of true Islam.

Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad said:

"The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community has no worldly or political ambitions. Our purpose is only to enlighten the world about the true and magnificent teachings of Islam. Nobody can be compelled to believe - rather our task is only to convey the message and thereafter it is up to Allah to open people's hearts to the truth."

Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad said that the *Holy Quran* states that the propagation of Islam should be conducted with wisdom. Thus, all preachers should seek to persuade others with logic and courtesy and should inculcate patience and empathy into their character.

The Khalīfa said that to spread the message of Islam it was essential that a person himself should set the highest moral standards and be an example for others to follow.

His Holiness said that if an alcoholic were to preach sobriety or an adulterer was to preach chastity then no one would take their counsel seriously. In the same way it would be hypocritical for an immoral person to seek to guide others towards morality.

Ḥaḍrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad concluded by praying that all Ahmadi Muslims become true ambassadors of the true message of Islam so that the entire world come to acknowledge Islam's beauty and virtue.

Earlier in the day, over 36,000 Ahmadi Muslims attending the event in Karlsruhe took part in an emotional pledge of allegiance (Bai'at) at the hand of the Khalīfa, while Ahmadi Muslims around the world also took part through viewing the proceedings live on *MTA International*. In the ceremony, a number of people took the pledge for the very first time.

Outreach Activity in Miami

By the grace of Allah, during the last year Miami chapter distributed about 1,550 copies of "World Crisis and Pathway to Peace." Here is the detail: Miami Book Fair November, 2014: 1,100. Messenger of Peace Conferences and other functions: 150. Functions for FIU students: 100. Other guests and visitors to the mosque: 100. Through members: 100.

Fifth Annual "Day on the Hill"
Ninth Annual National Public Affairs Seminar
February 13-14, 2015

Prepared by Amjad Mahmood Khan, National Secretary Umoor-e-Kharija (Public Affairs)

On February 13-14, 2015, the National Umoor-e-Kharija (Public Affairs) Department hosted its 5th Annual "Day on the Hill" event and 9th Annual National Public Affairs Seminar in Washington D.C. and Silver Spring, respectively. Approximately 100 delegates from 68 Chapters, including a Lajna delegation, braved the cold to participate. Delegates visited over 200 U.S. Congressional offices.

"Day on the Hill" Event (February 13, 2015)

For the fifth consecutive year, the Annual Seminar was preceded by a special "Day on the Hill" event. 98 delegates from 68 Chapters (most traveling together on a bus) participated in **200 total meetings with U.S. Congressional offices** (House/Senate); including over 40 direct meetings with members of Congress (not staff) at Capitol Hill in D.C. *Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh.* Delegates visited over 300 US Congressional Offices. A special 150-page binder/dossier (with appendices) was prepared for each U.S. Congressional office.

Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh, as part of this event, the 114th Session of U.S. Congress renewed the "Aḥmadiyya Muslim Caucus, A co-chaired by U.S. Representatives Jackie Speier (D-CA) and Ted Poe (R-TX). Rep. Poe delivered a special address to the entire group. We held Jum'a at the historic Cannon Caucus Room, and NBC Nightly News featured our efforts.

Following the Day on the Hill proceedings, the group spent the afternoon at the Smithsonian Museum and the Lincoln Memorial. The delegates had the opportunity to enjoy historic artifacts and take memorable pictures at the memorial. Overall, it was an enjoyable trip in a relaxing atmosphere.

9th Annual National Public Affairs Seminar (February 14, 2015)

First Session

The seminar began on Saturday, March 1 at 9:30 AM with the recitation of the Holy Qur'an by Imam Talha Ali. After welcome and introduction by Amjad Mahmood Khan, National Secretary Umoor-e-Kharija USA, Respected Dr. Naseem Rehmatullah, Nā'ib Amīr, USA, addressed the gathering. He emphasized the importance of the public affairs' work in the areas of nation building and reformation in accordance with the direction set forth by the Khalīfatul-Masīḥ atba.

Respected Maulana Naseem Mahdi then delivered an address on working together like "Bunyānun Marṣūṣ" (A structure strengthened with molten lead). He elaborated on the importance of being united behind the Khalīfatul-Masīḥ for the protection of the Jamā'at.

In his introduction, National Public Affairs Secretary, Amjad Mahmood Khan mentioned the passing of Rashid Ahmad American and the "listen and obey" nature of his obedience to Khilāfat. Following the introduction, Omair Mirza (Staff Member of Representative Andre Carson) and Naveed Malik (Refugee Program Officer, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, US State Department) provided an overview of the US Congress and the State Department.

Second Session

Respected Nā'ib Amir, Dr. Naseem Rehmatullah, presided the second session. The session began with an introduction to media and communications materials. Muhammed Ahmed Chaudhry then led an interactive

workshop on how to drive press to Jamā'at events. Following this workshop an open Q&A session was conducted.

Third Session

The third session which began following Zuhr/Asr Prayers and lunch was presided by Respected Nā'ib Amir, Masoud Malik. Brs. Nasir Rana, Absar Alam and Maksudul Ali – members of the National Public Affairs Team–conducted a session on the nuts and bolts of inviting external contacts to local Jamā'at events. They pointed out key areas and important back office administrative tasks which are instrumental in the success of all such events. Next, Harris Ahmad, PA Secretary of Chicago West Jamā'at led an interactive workshop on how to build an effective local team. Following the workshop, Mujeeb Ijaz and Nasir Bukhari (National Public Affairs Team Members) outlined a local plan development methodology which hovered around the concept of, "No Jamā'at Left Behind." This session then provided segue into the breakout sessions for local secretaries to be divided into regions to talk about developing their strategic goals. Towards the end of the session, Nasir Jadran, PA Secretary N. Virginia and Nasir Hafeez Malik, Representative Houston North Jamā'at, spoke to the audience about cultivating and strengthening relationships with political officials.

Closing Session

Respected Nā'ib Amir and Missionary-In-charge, Naseem Mahdi, presided the fourth and closing session. During this special 2-hour session, the local action plans were presented by team leaders. A regional strategy was also outlined and common goals were ascertained. Following this exercise, Amjad Mahmood Khan, National Secretary Public Affairs discussed the expectations and planning for Jalsa Salana 2015. Later, Imam Talha Ali provided inspirational insights into how we can project our faith through public affairs work. Towards the end of the session, Amjad Mahmood Khan presented the report of the seminar and the event concluded with silent prayers led by respected Maulana Naseem Mahdi.

The Aḥmadiyya Gazette/Al-Nūr and Al-Hilāl

A free copy is sent by mail to every Ahmadi family in the US. If you are not getting a copy, please contact the president of your local chapter to assure that your current mailing address is entered correctly in the Jamā'at database at the US headquarters.

Activities in Mexico

1. A total of 55 new converts (updated: June 12).

2. First interfaith symposium was held on May 25 at Olimpo (Cultural Center). This auditorium was provided by the city free of charge to hold this event. 250 people attended this event.

3. Weekly activities: Wednesday: Darsul-Quran Class. This class is for the Tarbiyat of the members of the Jamā'at. Thursday: Coffee, cake and Islam, 20 min lecture.This is advertised on the 'Muslims for Peace' flyer. Tabligh Friday: Jum'ah Prayers. There are always few guests in attendance. Tarbiyat & Tabligh Saturday: 2 Arabic Classes (Yassarnal-Quran class), one hour each. Sunday: Lajna Class. Tarbiyat.

4. University Lectures: Universidad Felipe Carrillo Puerto, one hour lecture Anahuac Mayab:

5. Lectures of 4 hours each Universidad Autonoma de Yucatan - Department of Psychology - 2-hour lecture on Islam Universidad Autonoma de Yucatan - Department of Psychology - 1-hour lecture on Spirituality delivered by Respected Naseem Mahdi.

6. Permanent Exhibition on the Holy Quran and the Life of the Holy Prophet Muhammad is set up in the main entrance hall of the Mosque/Mission house.

7. Work to get the Holy Quran printed in Mexico. A visit was made to the printing facilities in Puebla on May 30, 2015 and discussions continue with them and other printers.

8. Three missionaries have distributed flyers in Merida, Campeche and Cancun. Currently distributing flyers in Mexico City.

Imam Noman Rana Merida, Yucatan. Comunidad Musulmana Ahmadia de Mexico. Cell: 99.91.29.45.94

email: noman.rana@ahmadiyya.us. web: Islamespaz.org

Sixth Annual AMMA Retreat
May 29-31, 2015, Philadelphia, PA

The sixth annual retreat of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Medical association was held in Philadelphia. The program began on Friday May 29, 2015 with registration, dinner followed by Maghrib and Ishā Prayers. There was short session which included introductions and a short social program.

On Saturday, May 30, the morning session consisted of several presentations on a variety of topics. Dr. Mansoor Qureshi, Dr. Amina Tariq, Dr. Qaiser Qayyum, Dr. Naeem Lughmani, Dr. Fizal ʻAbdullāh, Dr. Afzal ur Rehman and Dr. Ahmad Munir made presentations on various subjects. Dr. Ahsanullah Zafar, Amir Jama'at USA who is also the patron of our association presided.

Members of Ahmadiyya Muslim Medical Association are providing valuable service around the globe. Many cardiologists and cardiac surgeons visit the Tahir Heart Institute and help to educate the staff of the hospital as well as perform groundbreaking surgeries and other procedures. Dr. Mubashar Mumtaz, Dr, Muhammad Ali Mumtaz, Dr. Afzal ur Rehman and Dr. Mansoor Qureshi are among them.

Tahir Heart Institute now has a CT scanner. Dr. Amina Tariq is providing readings on these studies via tele-radiology. Within the last three years almost 4,000 CT scans have been performed. Dr. Amina Tariq has provided reports on half of them.

By the Grace of God, Tahir Heart Institute has become a shining star and provides state of the art medical care to a large population for hundreds of miles around. Ahmadi doctors from the USA are constantly providing technical knowledge, patient care, education and financial help.

Munum Naeem, Naib Amir USA and Chairman Humanity First, provided a global update of Humanity First USA activities. He highlighted programs including Ebola response as well as water wells. He also highlighted work in Mali, Liberia, Marshall Islands, and Guatemala among other countries. In Guatemala, he highlighted the planned hospital in Alotenango which is happening under the direct guidance of the Khalīfatul-Masīḥ. A campaign for $1 million dollars is underway for this effort with $600,000 already raised. He encouraged the membership to donate what they can so we can start the project.

Falah-ud-Shams, Amir Marshall Islands, described the establishment of Jamā'at in the Marshall Islands and many heart-warming instances of Divine help. Humanity First and Ahmadi doctors run health missions under the leadership of Dr. Agha Shahid Khan to the islands.

Dr. Naeem Lughmani (Treasurer AMMA) presented the financial report for the organization.

Dr. Fizan ʻAbdullāh shared a report of the 1st International Pediatric Conference in Rabwah. He represented the AMMA at this meeting along with Dr. Zarar Bajwa. He reported that 350 healthcare professionals from 6 countries including 100 non-Ahmadi physicians as well as 6 industry partners participated in the conference. He announced the 2nd International Conference in Rabwah December 5-6th and encouraged US physicians to take a few days to attend. He also showed an excerpt of a video of the Institute of Special Education in Rabwah.

Dr. Younus Ismail briefed the membership about the AMMA USA medical clinic. The clinic is a discounted health care facility and opened Jan 1, 2013. The clinic is open 5 days a week and there is a mid-level practitioner daily. The physician is present twice a week and supervises the other patients remotely. The principle of the clinic is to use funds from insured patients to help pay for those who are not uninsured. A check for $15,000 which was financial proceeds from the clinic was presented to Humanity First.

Dr. Lutf Rehman mentioned Dr. Mehdi Ali Qamar who was martyred in Pakistan serving as a voluntary physician at Tahir Heart Institute and a seven minute video presentation honoring him was shared with the members.

Dr. Ahsanullah Zafar, Amir USA, concluded the session before lunch with closing remarks. He encouraged the membership to increase participation with their colleagues with AMMA and said that he was very impressed with the presentations of the AMMA. Session ended with silent prayer.

After lunch, Zuhr/Asr Prayers, the AMMA membership boarded two buses for a walking tour of Independence Hall and some of the historic sites in central Philadelphia. After returning from the trip, dinner was followed by Maghrib and Isha Prayers. After Prayers, the members participated in an enjoyable Mushaʻira (poetry recitation).

On Sunday May 31, 2015, the program began at 10 AM with recitation of the Holy Quran by Hashim Shah. Qasim Rashid spoke about Islamophobia. He presented some interesting statistics which showed that most Americans have never met a Muslim or stepped into a mosque. He then shared advice from the Khalīfatul-Masīḥ that in order to combat Islamophobia, we should read the book of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him), *Message of Peace,* and, most importantly, improve our own family relations so that we can convey the correct picture of Islam through the example of our daily lives.

LA Participates in Independence Day Celebrations on July 4th 2015

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of LA Inland Empire participated in City of Ontario Independence Day Celebrations on 4 July 2015. Lajna designed a float that reflected the Muslims for Loyalty campaign. By the Grace of Allah, the float was awarded the "Most Patriotic Red, White and Blue Award." 1200 Muslims for Loyalty flyers were handed out to the spectators. T-shirts, visors and 500 water bottles displaying Muslims for Loyalty labels were also handed out. The parade had an audience of 10,000 people and 89 entries. Our float received a lot of applause and praise. People were inquiring about our Jamāʼat and were very happy to receive our flyers.

Our Jamāʼat kick-started July 4th activities by inviting the California State Assemblyman Marc Steinorth, Councilwoman from City of Rancho Cucamonga Lynne Kennedy and Mayor Pro Tem Debra from the City of Ontario in the Masjid for Iftari dinner. City of Ontario hosted the Parade. Recording of the parade was shown later in one of the local channels.

Invocation at 2015 USA Embassy Celebration in Majuro, Marshall Islands

Every year US Embassy in Majuro, Marshall Islands celebrates the Independence Day where all government officials are invited to participate in this joyous event. This year was no exception. The Independence Day celebration was held at Jitak Club. His Excellency, Christopher Loaek, president of the Republic of the Marshall Islands was chief guest along with many of his ministers. Many senators and Mayors of the country were among the audience of more than 250 that filled the celebration hall.

The program began with the Guard March and the national anthem of USA and Marshall Islands. The audience was requested to remain standing for the invocation which was delivered by Matiullah Joyia, Missionary Marshall Islands. He recited Surah Fatiha in Arabic and read its translation along with various other prayers from the Holy Quran. It was faith inspiring to see as the President, the US ambassador, ministers, mayors and all other dignitaries stood while the verses of the Holy Quran were recited. Many people expressed their appreciation for the selection of the prayers and their meanings.

Falahud Din Shams

National President, Marshall Islands

NY Members Visit Ghana Consulate

Members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, New York, paid a courtesy visit to the Ghana Consulate in New York on June 10th, 2015. The purpose of the visit was to extend the Jamā'ats message of condolence to the people and government of Ghana for the loss of multiple lives during a recent flood and explosion disaster. The delegation was headed by Nazir Ayaz, president of the Queens chapter. Ghanaian Ahmadis living in the USA were also represented.

Members signed the book of condolence and met with the Consular to express their condolence and offered to help the victims through Humanity First which is a non-profit organization set up by the Ahmadiyya community to help displaced people worldwide.

The Consular was presented with a book on the Late Maulawi Wahab Adam. The event came to an end with exchange of contacts and a group photo. (Mahmud Ennin)

AUDIO CD at amibookstore.us

Psalms of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian by Yusef Latif. Order at amibookstore.us.

Inauguration of Nusrat Mosque in Minnesota

Dr. Muhammad Abdul Khaliq, President Minnesota Jamaat

Ḥaḍrat Mufti Muhammad Sadiq was the first missionary who brought the message of Ahmadiyyat to America in 1920. He traveled across USA and came to St Paul and Crookston in Minnesota to deliver lectures on Islam.

Over sixty years later, in the late summer of 1988, Sheikh Mubarak Ahmad, Amir and Missionary in-charge of the United States wrote a letter expressing the need to establish a Chapter of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Minnesota. In the letter, he appointed Dr. Muhammad Abdul Khaliq as the President, Munawar Ahmad Choudhary as General Secretary, and named the Jama'at as St. Paul Chapter of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. Our first meeting was held in November 1988 at the residence of Munawar Ahmad Choudhary on Hampton Ave., St. Paul, Minnesota.

The first meeting included Dr. Muhammad Abdul Khaliq (President), his wife and three children, Munawar Ahmad Choudhry (General Secretary), his wife and five children, Dr. Tanveer-ul-Haq Khan and his wife. In spring of 1989 Jameel Ahmad, Anwer Iqbal, Qamar Iqbal and his family joined the Jama'at. In 1990 Shafiq Ahmad and his family, Owais Ahmad, Syed Ausama Hassan, Rafiq Ahmad Tahir and his wife arrived in Minnesota and joined the Jama'at. In 1993 Nasim Ahmad and his family, Lamin Dibba from Gambia and his family, Alkali Dibba from Gambia and his family, Dr. Muqtada Choudhary and later on Abdul Rafique Jadran and his family, Rashid Ahmad and his family, Syed Sajid Ahmad and his family, Aboubacarr Drameh from Gambia, Mohammad Trawaley from Gambia, Lamin Sanyang from Gambia and his family, Dawood Ofori from Ghana and his family, Abdul Naseer Kakkada, Dr. Kamaludin Ahmad and his family, Dr. Nasir Latif Kamran and his family, Dr. Imran Hayee and his family joined the St. Paul Jama'at.

Initially, we held our meetings in apartments, conference rooms in University of Minnesota Twin Cities, public libraries conference rooms and in community center at different locations in Twin Cities. As the size of the Jama'at grew steadily, in July 2000 we rented office space on University Avenue, St. Paul which was our center. The rented office space was convenient but the space and permanent place called as mosque was an issue which led us to purchase a home in June 2005 in Brooklyn Park Minnesota with an intention to get it rezoned as Muslim place of worship. Our membership interacted with local community and city administration in many outreach efforts resulting in recognition of Jama'at. In 2006, we applied for rezoning which was approved overwhelmingly by the Brooklyn Park City Council as Muslim place of worship. During planning and architectural work period, membership was on the look out to find a place suitable for Mosque so that we may avoid the lengthy and difficult task of building the mosque. We came across a building in City of Coon Rapids, which is suburb of Minneapolis. The building was affordable fitting in the approved budgeted amount and it was almost centrally located for the membership. In addition, the building was zoned as place of worship and ready to move in for use as a mosque. After consultation with the center, Amir Jama'at USA approved the purchase of the building and we sold the Brooklyn Park property. In October 2013 we acquired the possession of the building in the City of Coon Rapids Minnesota and Ḥaḍrat (may Allah be his Helper) named the building as "Nusrat Mosque" in September 2014.

The Nusrat Mosque has large Prayer Halls for men and Lajna, meeting rooms, library room, office rooms, kitchen and eating place for men and Lajna, large lobby area, large basement, almost new office tables and chairs, hard wired audio and video system with projector and screen in two rooms, and a large parking lot. We started using the Nusrat mosque in late October 2013 and the first Friday Prayer in the mosque was led by Imam I.H. Kauser.

This was a new city and a new place. We started building relationship with neighbors, city mayor, city council members, city police chief, city fire department, neighboring religious organizations, and neighboring businesses. The local TV was contacted and they broadcasted stories about the Nusrat Mosque in their evening news in October and December 2014. We started hosting Muslim for Loyalty, Muslim for Life Blood Drive, and 4th of July activities, night to unite events at the Nusrat mosque. With these activities we integrated ourselves in the community and we started work to prepare for formal inauguration of the Nusrat Mosque to be held on Saturday May 23, 2015.

Our Khuddam, Ansars, Lajna, Atfal, and Nasirat worked many hours on weekdays, and on weekends to prepare the mosque for this event. Local news outlets including the major newspaper of Twin Cities "Star Tribune" published story about the Nusrat Mosque based on the interviews of Imam Rabbani and the

chapter president. The ABC newspaper published about mosque inaugural with input from Lajna, Public Affairs Secretary, and Tabligh Secretary. By the grace of Allah, the stage was set for the event, and the Nusrat Mosque inauguration attracted over two hundred guests which included Congressman Keith Ellison, Congressman Tom Emmer, five State of Minnesota representatives, Director of FBI Twin Cities, City of Coon Rapids officials, two local police chiefs and neighbors. Messages from Governor of State of Minnesota, Mark Dayton and US Senator Al-Franken were received and presented. Imam Naseem Mahdi, Na'ib Amir and Missionary In-Charge USA, National Amila members, Amjad Mahmood Khan, National Secretary for Public Affairs, Hasan Hakeem, National Tabligh Secretary, Syed Sajid Ahmad, National Publication Secretary, and presidents of neighboring Jama'ats from Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa attended the inauguration event.

The Honorable Congressman Keith Ellison toured the mosque, reviewed the photographs exhibition in lobby area of the mosque, interacted with Minnesota Jama'at members, signed visitor book, and gave interview to local TV.

The program of inauguration of Nusrat Mosque was presided by Imam Naseem Mahdi, and moderated by Amjad Mahmood Khan. The program started with the recitation of the Holy Qur'an by Imam Rabbani and English Translation read by Lamin Jagne. Dr. Muhammad Abdul Khaliq, President Minnesota Jama'at delivered the welcome address. During his address he thanked the guests for attending this historic event, briefly described the history of Minnesota Jama'at, and introduced the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. The Honorable Congressman Keith Ellison delivered the keynote address and he said:

"This is the Community that comes to mind when I say Islam is a religion of peace. There are some sects you can't say that about but you can with Ahmadi Muslims."

"The footprint of Nusrat Mosque will show Minnesota what an important and valuable neighbor the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community will be."

There were several dignitaries who attended the event, and many of them were given a chance to speak briefly to the audience while others were introduced to audience by Amjad Mahmood Khan.

Imam Naseem Mahdi delivered the concluding address and during his address he said:

"Masjid (mosque) comes from the root sa-ja-da which means to prostrate and thus any place where people prostrate is called masjid. And as such this name cannot be exclusive for Muslim place of worship. Rather it is a place of worship for everyone and thus in Nusrat Masjid all are welcome."

The program concluded with Du'ā led by Imam Naseem Mahdi followed by lunch. The guests were given gift bags containing copy of the Holy Qur'an, book on the Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam, World Crisis and the Pathway to Peace, and for few dignitaries a clock was added in the gift bag with engraving of "Nusrat Mosque Inauguration May 23 2015 Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Minnesota Chapter."

Overall the participation by public and public officials was beyond expectations. Al-Ḥamdu Lillāh. Over ten media outlets, and social media covered the event. We have been introduced to many in a day and we have much more responsibility to serve the community and we are ready to help them. May Allah guide and help the Jama'at to populate the mosque, and keep its doors open to people of all religions and people with no belief. May they find solace in this place of worship and we as members of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community ever remain ready to help them. Āmīn

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Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA
Expresses Condolences to Victims of Charleston Terror Attack

Stands in solidarity with African American Christian Community

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA expresses its deepest condolences to the family and friends of the barbaric terror attack yesterday on the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina. The terror attack left nine dead. From God we are and to God must we return.

"This attack is an attack on all humanity, and we stand in solidarity with our African American and Christian brethren," said Wasim Malik, Vice President of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA, "We must maintain the lines of dialogue and understanding to prevent future such attacks. We pray for the departed that may God be with them always."

For Muslims the holy month of Ramadan began today—a time of fasting, prayer, contemplation, and service to humanity. As such, we increase our prayers and supplications for the victims of this horrible crime, and pray God engulfs them with His strength and Grace.

NY Outreach Activities

Dialogue & Cultural Presentation. On June 7th, NY members attended an interfaith conference themed "Tolerance of all Faiths" held at the Starlite Pavilion in Queens, NY. Respected heads of various faiths were among the group of panelists. After an introduction, the panelists began to take questions from the audience. Imam Daud A. Hanif was our representative, and partook in every question asked. A Christian gentleman noted the hypocrisy of religious leaders whereby they themselves don't always practice what they preach. Our respected Imam Sahib responded to this comment by shining light on the true teachings of Islam and the importance of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him).

Islam & Ramaḍān Lecture. On Jun 25th members attended a lecture at the Kew Gardens Community Center in Queens. Imam Daud A. Hanif was invited to speak about Islam and Ramaḍān, followed by a Q&A session. We received at Thank You letter from the organizer which reads as follows:

Dear Nazir,

I can't thank you and Imam Hanif enough for taking the time to come and explain the beauty and richness of Islam, and the essence of Ramadan. It was just a taste. A number of people had said they never knew what it was about and found it interesting, informative, and it had so much commonality with other religions.

I do have an advantage over the rest of my colleagues, because of the quality of my relationships with my former Pakistani neighbors, and I do ask a lot of questions.

A visit to the mosque would be lovely, and I will try to arrange that. Thank you both again and again.

Ramadan Mubarak.

Joyce Berger

There were a total of 32 guests at this event. Each guest received a copy of Philosophy of the Teachings of Islam, Women in Islam, Muhammad: Liberal for Women, a Jamā'at pen and Jamā'at bookmark.

Distribution of Ramadan Timings Calendar. Ramaḍān calendars were distributed at various locations throughout Queens including grocery stores and NYC Public Libraries. The head of Public Relations for Queens Central Library gave his regards and was very thankful to the Jamā'at for the contribution of Ramaḍān calendars while noting that we were the only Muslim organization to make such contributions.

Throughout this holy month of Ramaḍān, many of our members have taken on the responsibility of bringing their personal guests whom we take special care of alongside our Tabligh efforts with special thanks to Respected Ghulam Rabbi.

Lastly, President NY wrote and sent out a condolence letter to the families of the victims of the Clarkson shooting. (Abdul Ghafoor)

Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community Chicago Outreach for Peace and Better Understanding

We should be all cooperative with TSA and law enforcement agencies;
Safety of all citizen is Paramount, said Imam Shamshad.

Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community Chicago hosted an outreach event in which federal government's various law enforcement agencies, in collaboration with local organizations, held informational and educational sessions to elaborate different services these agencies provide to local communities. The event was held in Masjid Baitul-Jāmi' of Chicago on Thursday, July 23, 2015 from 2:00 to 4:30 PM. Representatives of the following agencies participated in the program: Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI); Homeland Security Department; United States Attorneys' Office; and Transportation Safety Administration (TSA). In addition, The Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago, Durrani Foundation, FBI Chicago Citizens Academy Alumni Association, and few other local Muslim leaders also attended the event. One speaker traveled from Washington, DC, and some guests also came from Milwaukee, WI. In total, there were about forty guests.

The program started promptly at 2:00 PM, with a welcome address by National Vice President and the President of the Southwest Jamā'at, Munum A Naeem. In his opening remarks, president welcomed all guests and introduced Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community. He briefly spoke about Jamā'at's three campaigns, namely Muslims for Peace, Muslims for Loyalty, and Muslims for Life. He also touched upon Humanity First, and various humanitarian services provided by Jamā'at in different parts of the world.

The presentations of law enforcement agencies focused on civil rights, hate crimes, safety and security of the infrastructure, security clearance procedures at the airports, and communication with law enforcement personnel at different levels. Members of the audience asked interesting questions after each presentation making the program very interactive.

Imam Shamshad A Nasir concluded the program with his brief closing remarks. He made the point to follow the good intentions of the program with concrete efforts. He also mentioned Islamic perspective about respecting human beings regardless of the different issues being discussed in the world nowadays. Imam Shamshad said that we should always cooperate with TSA and other law enforcement agencies because all efforts are done for the security of all citizens and security of all is paramount and should accept all kind of inconveniences gladly.

Imam also said that no efforts will be fruitful without prayers. He then read some prayers from Quran and sayings of Prophet Muhammad, peace be on him, and lead all in silent prayers.

Some guests were presented a book on peace by His Holiness Mirza Masroor Ahmad, may Allah be his support.

All guests were served light lunch and refreshments. The feedback of all guests was extremely positive and appreciative. The program was a success.

Visit to Unity Church in Chicago

We were invited to Unity Church of Oak Park on July 22, 2015. Secretary Tabligh Chicago SW, Saiyed Kaashif A. Qaderi, was in touch over the past few months with Michael Korpan and John O'Rourke, dedicated members of the church.

Mr K. Qaderi, Secretary Tabligh, after silent prayer, introduced Ahmadiyya Muslim Community and spoke about how it is taking steps to condemn ISIS through peace events, blood drives, feed the homeless, etc. He then introduced the keynote speaker Imam Shamshad of Baitul-Jāmi of Glen Ellyn Chicago in detail and asked him to introduce Islam, Founder of Islam and its teachings.

Imam Shamshad covered the basics starting with the five pillars of Islam and gave a detailed account of each pillar. He also pointed out the system of Khilāfat and how Ahmadi Muslims are benefiting from it. There was discussion as to why certain Muslims are causing problems. Imam Shamshad said that just as when a doctor prescribes medication, if the sick patient doesn't take it, the patient stays sick. The same can be said for the Islamic world who hasn't accepted the Messiah of the age who is the spiritual doctor from God to cure and heal all sick spiritually and morally. Imam Shamshad Nasir also condemned all kind of terrorist activity which is taking place in the world and said that Islam means peace and Islam does not allow to shed blood of any person at all.

Respected Imam pointed out how the Bible presents Jesus only as a man and not God. God is one and has no partner. The church members seemed to understand and also appreciated the way Imam explained it. The question/answer session was lively and the entire program was 90 minutes. One member of the church said that he was looking for an Islamic group that preaches peace and would like to attend our congregation in Glen Ellyn, IL. Moments later, Imam presented a Holy Quran to Mr. John O'Rourke and the congregation happily took a picture with Imam, Secretary Tabligh Chicago SW, and Secretary Waṣāyā Chicago SW, Saiyed Burhan Qaderi. (Saiyed Kaashif A. Qaderi, Secretary Tabligh, Chicago Southwest)

Tahir Academy NY

As the first semester of Tahir Academy comes to an end we would like to appreciate all of our teachers and administration for taking the time out of their busy schedules to dedicate it to the children of our Jamā'at every weekend. This semester with five Classes; KG, Level 1, Level 2 Boys/Girls, Level 3 Boys/Girls we had a total of 87 students in our Academy. This was the first Semester the students were taken to the gym located in the school across the street from the Masjid. Atfal/Nasirat classes and meetings were held regularly at the end of the day in a rotating schedule with Waqf-e-Nau classes. The results are as follows:

KG

1st – Fizza Basharat

2nd – Duha Ahmad

3rd – Shafia Rizwan

Level 1

1st – Naseem Dhanraj

2nd – Sarmad Mansoor

3rd – Ishaal Ahmad

Level 2—Girls

1st – Maahida Bajwa

2nd – Mahera Mohar

3rd – Huda Mahmood

Level 3—Girls

1st – Baria Ahmad

2nd – Faaria Basharat

Level 2—Boys

1st – Qaasid Bajwa

2nd – Muqeet Ahmad

3rd – Kamal Mohammed

Level 3—Boys

1st – Mahir Mahmood; Danial Mahmood

2nd – Danish Chaudhry

Tahir Academy LA

By the grace of Allah, Tahir Academy Los Angeles held their fifth consecutive graduation ceremony on May 17, 2015. This year, six students graduated with diploma in Basics of Religious Education while 120 plus students received certificates of passing or acknowledgement of their effort during the academic

year. Graduation ceremony was attended by 300 plus parents and members.

Our academic year started on September 7, 2014 and ended on May 17, 2015 with graduation day. During the year, academy registration went up to 161 students from four chapters. We had seven levels where level 4 to 7 were separated by gender. There were 29 regular staff members who were supported by volunteers in areas of food, cleanup and extra-curricular activities.

A total of 32 classes were conducted during this year where students were taught from required memorization to Islamic history, reading of Holy Quran to Tarbiyat/Moral training topics. Majlis Atfal-ul-Ahmadiyya and Nasirat used Tahir Academy as a platform to conduct their respective classes twice a month.

Iqbal Rana, Principal Tahir Academy Los Angeles

Members of Syracuse chapter proceeding for July 4 parade.

New York Activities and News

Aameen Ceremony: On the last day of Tahir Academy, the Ameen ceremony of Naseem, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tariq Dhanraj was conducted by Respected Hadi Nasir.

May Allah enable Naseem to make the Quran a source of his knowledge and to practice its teachings. Aameen.

Marriages: The Walima Reception of Furhan Ahmad, son of Mr. and Mrs. Aziz Ahmad was held this month. Congratulations to the couple and may Allah bless them with immense happiness. Aameen.

Births: Mr. and Mrs. Asif Mohammad were blessed with their first child, Faizun, who was named by the Khalīfatul-Masīḥ, may Allah be his Helper. The child is Waqf-e-Nau. He is also the nephew of Qaid MKA, Aslam Mohammad.

Mr. and Mrs. Khurram Bajwa were blessed with a baby girl.

Congratulations to both families and may Allah make these children a source of happiness for the parents. Ameen.

Feed the Hungry Program: During the month of June, Ansar members volunteered for the "Feed the Hungry" program at SNAP center. SNAP is a social service agency providing for the needs of the senior citizens residing in the borough of Queens. Along with other services, they deliver about 2,700 meals a month. Ansar members spent 10 hours volunteering.

Obituary: Respected Nasira, mother of Shazia Bhatti passed away in Pakistan.

The elder sister of Rashida Bajwa passed away in Pakistan.

Sabiha Barakat, mother of Birgees and Nauman Barakat, passed away. Her Janaza was held at Bait-uz-Zafar and she was later buried at the Jamā'at's graveyard in Long Island. The deceased was the wife of Late Syed Barakat Ahmad, the former Indian Diplomat.

انّا لله و انّا اليہ راجعون

May Allah, the Almighty, elevate the status of the deceased in paradise and grant Patience to their family members to bear their loss. May Allah grant all the deceased a high status in Paradise. Aameen.

A Blessed Wedding Reception

Sardar Rafiq Ahmad

Son of Ḥaḍrat Sardar Abdur Rahman, Mehr Singh, may Allah be please with him

On March 21, 2015, a wedding reception was held in Long Island (NY) in honor of my son Sardar Anees Ahmad (son of Sardar Rafiq Ahmad/Busaina Ahmad of Waterloo NY) and Ms. Naila Sulaiman (daughter of Mohammed Sulaiman of Long Island NY).

Nikah was performed by respected Imam Naseem Mehdi. Members of the family of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him), members of the family of Ḥaḍrat Seth Mohammed Ghaus (may Allah be pleased with him), Imam Daud Hanif and members of bride and groom's family participated.

Saturday, March 28, *Valima* reception was held. The reception was attended by members of the family of the Promised Messiah, Hazrat Seth Mohammad Ghaus Sahib's family, members of Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community of five local Jamā'ats along with their presidents. Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ sent two messages full of fragrance of love, affection and kindness. Congratulatory messages were received from Imam Shamshad Nasir, Imam Mukhtar Cheema, Imam Ata-ul-Mujeeb Rashid, respected Laal Khan (Amir Canada), and respected Sahibzada Mirza Samad Ahmad, local Mayor and Asst. Police Chief. A number of Hindu and Christian friends also attended the reception.

The bride, Respected Naila Sulaiman, is the daughter of Respected Mohammed Sulaiman. On father's side, she is great granddaughter of Ḥaḍrat Seth Mohammed Ghous Sahib whom Ḥaḍrat Muslih Mau'ūd (may Allah be pleased with him) had said to be a companion of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) and on mother's side she is granddaughter of the Late Ḥaḍrat Mufti Mohammed Ahmed Jalil.

The groom, Sardar Anees Ahmad, son of Sardar Rafiq Ahmad is grandson of Ḥaḍrat Sardar Abdur Rehman (Mehr Singh) (may Allah be pleased with him) who was among 313 companions of the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him). From mother's side, he is grandson of Professor Abbas bin 'Abdul Kadir Shaheed (martyred) who was one of the pioneers of T.I. College Rabwah. Professor Sahib's brother, Dr. Akil bin 'Abdul Kadir was also martyred in 1984.

Anees Ahmad has written numerous articles in national famed newspapers about topics of national and international interest and removing myths about Islam. He was elected twice as chairman of Writers guild of Khuddam-ul-Ahmadiyya. Miss Naila Sulaiman has been active on local Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of Long Island as well as served in organizing National Convention of USA a number of times and has received several awards.

Prayers re requested for the newlyweds and their families. [Sardar Rafiq Ahmad

Ahmadi Muslims participate in ICPIC's 23rd Annual Philadelphia Islamic Heritage Festival and Parade

This year, Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community participated in ICPIC's 23rd Annual Philadelphia Islamic Heritage Festival & Parade with two large banners, one with the Kalima and the second with the motto of Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community, "Love for All Hatred for None." At the parade held on June 13, 2015, both banners attracted public attention along with the slogans of Allahu Akbar (God is supreme) raised by the Ahmadis. Ahmadis were the only one to carry the Kalima banner. Some non-Ahmadi Muslims liked getting their picture taken with the banners.

We also used a trailer as a float in the parade along with many cars with magnetic stickers promoting the Aḥmadiyya message of peace. Separately, both men and women took part in the parade.

The parade started early afternoon around 1:30 PM from 6th & Market Streets and marched on Market Street towards Front Street. Upon reaching Chestnut Street, the parade turned onto Chestnut Street towards Penn's Landing which was the concluding point for the parade. The side-roads and traffic on roads were all blocked by the police as the parade made its way to Penn's Landing around 2:00 PM. Upon reaching at Penn's Landing, the Kalima banner was posted around the entrance into the festival area where other Muslims had installed stalls selling different kind of merchandise. Ahmadiyya Muslim Community had established a bookstall here and distributed free balloons to kids.

New English Books For Children at amibookstore.us

Hadhrat Nuh and the great flood
Hazrat Hud (peace be upon him)
Hazrat Mirza Bashiruddin Mahmood Ahmad (ra)
Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad (ra)
Hazrat Ruqayya (ra)
Hazrat Safiyyah (ra)
Rabia's Eid
The true story of a Prince
Stories of the Faithful

Condolence with Ambassador of Nepal

During the last 2015 Shūrā, Respected Dr. Ahsan Zafar, Amīr, instructed that a delegation of Jamā'at headed by Dr. Zaheer Bajwa and Mian Ismail Wasim should meet with the Ambassador of Nepal and offer condolences on behalf of Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community USA on tremendous loss suffered by the nation during a recent devastating earthquake. One of the first responders on ground in Nepal were our volunteers of Humanity First. The Ambassador thanked the official delegation and remarked that he will inform the Prime Minister of Nepal that Ḥaḍrat Khalīfatul-Masīḥ V, Head of Worldwide Aḥmadiyya Muslim Community, has instructed that all possible help be provided.

Left to Right:- Dr. Zaheer Bajwa, Gen Secretary USA Jamā'at, His Excellency Dr. Arjun K. Karki, Ambassador of Nepal to USA, Mian Ismail Wasim, President, Washington D.C. Metropolitan Chapter, Imam Talha Ali, and Waleed Khan representing Humanity First USA.

Typing Urdu, Persian and Arabic

Personal computers now provide facilties to type Urdu, Persian and Arabic in Word and other PC applications. It is now just as easy to type Urdu, Persian and Arabic as it is to type English.

To take advantage of the expanded capabilities of Word, PowerPoint, etc., you can directly type Urdu, Persian and Arabic in them.They provide spelling and grammar checking capabilities too.

If you are using InPage, you can convert InPage files into Word.

Please visit urdu.ca for more information.

Another site you may want to visit is editurdu.blogspot.com.

Verses from Holy Qur'ān and Aḥādīth now are available on the Internet in soft versions. You can copy verses and Aḥādīth directly from the files into your writings. Thanks to alislam.org team, it now has complete Rūḥānī Khazā'in in typed form. Urdu extracts from the writings of the Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him, can be copied direcly from alislam.org and pasted into your work.

THE HOLY QUR'AN REVEALS SECRETS OF ATOM

Dr. S.M. Shahab Ahmad, Edmonton

The Holy Qur'an is fountainhead of knowledge, one of which is the prophecy about the future events in it. In this article, I will touch the Qur'anic prophecy about the atom: it's wonderful structure, it's great benevolence, and the immense energyin it.

Amazing, as it may seem, this is exactly what is literally described in the following verses:

"Woe to every backbiter, slanderer, who amasses wealth and counts it over and over. He imagines that his wealth will make him immortal. Nay! He shall surely be cast into the 'Ḥuṭamah.' And what should make you know what the 'Ḥuṭamah' is? Allah's fire as preserved fuel, which will leap suddenly on to the hearts. It is locked up in the outstretched pillars to be used against them." (104 [Al-Humazah]: 2-10)."

This short Quranic Chapter is densely packed with astonishing statements which lie far beyond the reach of people of the early 7th century C.E., when the Holy Qur'an was revealed.

Authentic Arabic lexicons describe Ḥuṭamah as possessing two root meanings; first Ḥaṭamah, which means to pound into extremely small particles, and the second 'the smallest insignificant particles.' Thus Ḥiṭmah is the result obtained by breaking something down to its smallest constituents." [1]

Phonetically, the words, "Ḥuṭamah" or "Ḥiṭmah" is equivalent to the English word, "atom", therefore, it is appropriate to describe what an atom is:

"Since a long time under the influence of the Greek Philosophy, it was thought that atom is the small particle which cannot be divided. In the beginning of the 19th century, an English chemist, John Dalton, expressed the view that atoms of every chemical element are different from atoms of other elements. And everything we see in nature is combination of these atoms combined in different forms. However, he did not say that an atom can be divided. Therefore the notion that atoms are indivisible continued." [2]

In 1886, the Promised Messiah (may peace be upon him) challenged:

کیا عجب تو نے ہر اک ذرہ میں رکھے ہیں خواص
کون پڑھ سکتا ہے سارا دفتر ان اسرار کا

تیری قدرت کا کوئی بھی انتہا پاتا نہیں
کس سے کھل سکتا ہے پیچ اس عقدۂ دشوار کا

"How marvelous, indeed, are the qualities Thou hast made inherent in every particle:

And who is there who can read the immense meaning of those profound mysteries!"

The human mind fails, absolutely, to fathom the immensity of Thy powers:

And who is there who can unravel these intricate mysteries. "Surma Chashm Arya," p. 4." [3]

In the same book, the Promised Messiah has said: "Who has encompassed the laws of nature."

The scientists of that time were not satisfied with Dalton's view because it did not explain in what peculiarities atoms of one element differed from atoms of other elements. They continued to stick to the opinion that atoms cannot be divided.

Now, examine the revolutionary changes in the scientists' view about atom:

In 1897, the British scientist, J. J. Thompson, discovered a negatively charged particle within an atom, and named it an electron, which has the least negative charge. The discovery raised a number of questions in the scientific circle:

1. Where does this particle come from?

2. If it comes out of an atom, then an atom is not indivisible; it is a composite.

3. It is a well-know scientific fact that an atom is free of any electrical charge, positive or negative. The discovery of this negatively charged particle; electron, leads us to think that there must be positively charged particles within an atom; and the number of positively and negatively charged particles must be equal.

With great zeal the scientists started to discover atom.

"In 1919, Lord Ernest Rutherford, a physicist from New Zealand, discovered this positively charged particle, and named it a proton. Although electrons and protons have equal electric charge on them, the former negative and the latter positive, but they differ in atomic weights. A proton is 1836 times heavier than an electron. Based upon the experiences of his researchers in this field, Rutherford, in 1920, hinted towards the

possibility of a particle within an atom having no charge, and named it a neutron."

This hypothetical particle, neutron, was discovered by the British physicist, James Chadwick, in 1932. Since then, an atom is admitted to consist of electrons, protons, and neutrons, in which electrons and protons are equal in number, but the number of neutrons differs.

Rutherford postulated that an atom is a mini solar system. In the solar system, the sun is in the center and all planets are rotating in their orbits around the sun. Similar is the case of an atom: The nucleus, consisting of proton and neutron, is the center, and electrons are rotating around this center in their respective orbits.

The Danish physicist, Niels Bohr, put forward his own model. Even in this model nucleus is described as positively charged around which negatively charged electrons rotate in their respective orbits. What he added is that as long as electrons rotate in their own orbits they do not lose energy." [4]

In this short article all researches about the structure of atoms cannot be covered."

Now the scientists are talking about a tiny particle Higgs Boson or the God Particle." [5]

In Britain, Abdus Salam was introduced to the Higgs mechanism by Tom Kibble. He had worked earlier on electro-weak field theory and immediately saw the possibilities afforded by spontaneous symmetry breaking. He and Weinberg had independently arrived at precisely the same model. [6]

Higgs only talked about the mathematical possibility of Higgs Boson, whereas Weinberg and Salam predicted its existence and related it with electro-weak force.

After these predictions CERN, ATLAS and other advanced laboratories started experiments to search for the Higgs particle. On 4 July 2012, CERN announced:

"Positive identification of the new particle's characteristics will take considerable time and data. But whatever form the Higgs particle takes, our knowledge of the fundamental structure of matter is about to take a major step forward."

When asked for his observations, Peter Higgs congratulated the laboratory on its remarkable success and said: 'it's really an incredible thing that it has happened in my lifetime.' [7]

Alas! Abdus Salam died in 1996, i.e., 16 years before this discovery and could not see his success in this revolutionary discovery.

This is the scientific history about the study of the atom. The Promised Messiah's challenge— "The human mind fails, absolutely, to fathom the immensity of Thy power: And who is there can unravel these intricate mysteries." — is still valid.

Till now, no scientist has claimed that he has discovered the fundamental building block. Such a claim means that scientists have encompassed Nature which is impossible. Similarly, scientists can never point out the end of the continuously expanding universe. The reason is:

"He is the First and the Last, and the Manifest and the Hidden, and He knows all things full well." (57 [Al-Ḥadīd]:4)

The challenge of the Holy Qur'an and of the Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him, is not confined to the structure of the atom. It also points out to the immense force inherit in it, its benefits and, unfortunately, the harms humans have suffered because of its misuse.

Some uses are:

Electromagnetic force, produced as a result of the above mentioned activities within an atom, works behind electric bulbs, radio, television and X-Rays.

Neutron Therapy: Usually physicians use Radiation Therapy to treat cancer patients. But in cases where Radiation Therapy does not work, Neutron Therapy is applied.

Pion Therapy: Hospitals in U.S.A. apply Pion Therapy to treat patients suffering from head cancer and tumors in the neck.

PET (Positron Emission Tomography) is used to sketch refined and advanced photographs of the brain. This machine is based upon gamma rays, emitted from atom. [8]

Energy in any atom:

Nuclear experts agree that if some fissile atoms are bombarded by neutrons, they split into two or more fragments. This phenomenon is named fission. The total mass of these fragments is less than the mass of the original. The lost mass is converted into immense energy.

Credit goes to Meitner and his nephew, Frisch, who could visualize that the immense energy is created in accordance with the Einstein's equation:

$E= mc^2$

E stands for the energy created, m stands for the mass converted into energy and c stands for the velocity of light (186, 000 miles per second).

What happens is that once an atom is split by bombardment of neutrons the reaction does not stop.

The split atom produces more neutrons and they again bombard other atoms in the material and a chain reaction is produced. To maintain a chain reaction, it is necessary to introduce some material that will slow down the neutrons released during fission process. Such materials are known as moderators. Enrico Fermi, an Italian physicist, built first reactor where fission was controlled.

Nuclear Bombs have great destructive power. One bomb was dropped on Hiroshima and then a second on Nagasaki in August 1945, both cities in Japan. The world is well aware of the consequences. Some exact information is:

"The two nuclear bombs used in 1945 killed approximately 200,000 people, and were of modest capacity (15 – 20 kiloton). The damage that can be done by 300-500 kiloton capability modern nuclear warfare is indeed unfathomable. The potential damage that can be caused by these deadly weapons has been estimated in recent scientific publications. An aerial strike with 500 kiloton multiple nuclear weapons to an average city will result in 1.5 million fatalities, 140, 000 victims with third-degree burns and 24,000 with second-degree burns as an immediate aftermath. In addition, the nuclear aftermath of such an event will last for decades."

"The scientific evidence supports that nuclear war can potentially destroy life as we know it on earth within a short space of time. Its devastating effects will be seen on climates and those forms of life that survive the nuclear holocaust for decades afterwards." [9]

After describing the wonderful structure of an atom, the immense force inherent in it, its uses and abuses, I describe what actually happens after an atomic explosion:

"At the instant of explosion, large quantities of gamma rays, neutrons and x-rays are immediately released. The x-rays raise the temperature to meteoric heights creating a great ball of fire rising rapidly, riding the extremely hot atomic blast. This is the canopy of fire like a huge mushroom which is seen from far and wide."

The x-rays also travel sideways in all directions along with the neutrons, causing immense heat which burns everything on its way. The speed at which this heat front moves is many times the speed of sound which also creates shockwaves. But much faster and more penetrating than this are the gamma rays which outpace the heat front by leaping forward at the speed of light. They are so immensely vibrant that by sheer force of their vibration they strike the hearts dead. So death is not caused by the intense heat generated by x-rays, it is tremendous energy of the gamma rays which inflicts instantaneous death. This is exactly how the Holy Quran describes it (104 Al-Humazah).

Again the Quran describes a lethal cloud which comprises a deadly radiant smoke:

"Then watch for the day when the sky will bring forth a manifest smoke that will cast a shadow upon people. This will be a painful suffering. (44 [Al-Dukhan]: 11-12)

The nature of this cloud is further qualified by the following verses:

"Now move towards what you have been denying, move on towards a three-pronged shadow, neither affording shade, nor protecting from the blaze. It throws up flames like huge castles, as though the castles were dusky yellow camels." (77 [Al-Mursalāt]: 30-24)

"The words 'move towards' indicate that mankind will be gradually carried into an era where it will confront this calamity of a tormenting cloud which offers no shade or protection. Shadows provide relief and shelter. The clouds stand between us and the blazing heat of the sun. In the above verse no sun is mentioned, just a fire from whose blaze this shadow affords no protection. Rather, the shadow of this cloud becomes a means of transmitting the torment of the fire which emits it. Nothing under its shade is safe. This clearly is the description of a radioactive cloud. The event being described will throw up huge flames of a dusky yellow appearance, flames that are likened to castles and also have the appearance of camels. Perhaps, here it is not only the likeness to the color of the camel, but also the shape of its hump which is highlighted."

"People of the seventh century would not have been able to understand the significance of such a deadly cloud of smoke. It would have been beyond their comprehension. However, today we know of atomic explosions and can understand the images of radioactive clouds they produce." [10]

Again:

"The day when the heaven will become like molten copper and the mountains will become like flakes of wool." (70 [Al-Maʿārij]: 9-10)

These verses foretell of an atomic war. Because only atomic explosions can change heaven into molten copper, and mountains into flakes.

"The great Calamity! What is the great Calamity? And what should make thee know what the great Calamity is? The day when mankind will be like scattered moths, and mountains will be like carded wool. Then, as for him whose scales are heavy, he will have a pleasant life. But as for him whose scales are

light, his mother will be 'Hāwiyah' (101 [Al-Qāri'ah]: 2-10).

Only a nuclear war can turn mankind into scattered moths, and mountains into carded wool. However, there is solace for people whose scales are heavy.

"And they ask thee concerning the mountains. Say, My Lord will break them into pieces and scatter them as dust. And He will leave them as a barren, level plane, wherein thou wilt see no depression or, elevation. On that day they will follow the Caller straight, there being no deviation therefrom; and all voices shall be hushed before the Gracious God and thou shall not hear, but a subdued sound of footsteps." (20 [Ṭāhā]: 106-109)

Ḥaḍrat Mirza Mahmūd Ahmad Khalīfatul-Masīḥ II has commented on these verses in detail in Tafsīr Kabīr Vol, 5 which cannot be quoted in this short article. Comments of Mirza Tahir Ahmad Khalīfatul-Masīḥ IV are:

"It will be God, the Perfect Leveler, Whose hand will bring about this amazing transformation. The mountains are mere figures of speech, indicating powerful states, nations, and people. The Quran predicts that once their pride is shattered and they are finally humbled and straightened, only then will they be fit to respond to the humblest callers unto God, who has no crookedness about him. Such destruction as described could only result from a holocaust of the magnitude of hundreds of nuclear explosions, which implies that man will not learn his lesson, and the head of his arrogance will have to be bent by the sheer weight of enormity. Along with this grim message of warning there is also a glorious message of hope that mankind will ultimately survive and be ushered into a new era of light. Man will learn to mend his ways – if not before, at least after tasting some of the fruits of his follies and defiance of God." [11]

The Merciful God Who wants to protect us from these great calamities taught us to pray:

"Say, 'I seek refuge with the Lord of cleaving, from the evil of that which He has created, and from the evil of night when is overspreads and from the evil of those who blow in knots to unto them, and from the evil of the envier when he envies." (113 [Al-Falaq])

By the way, it is mentioned that this chapter may foretell atom bomb. The reason of this interpretation is that the Arabic word "Falaq" and the English word "Cleave" mean to separate or divide. In making an atom bomb, one atom is cleaved into two.

We also have hope in the following verses:

"And on the day when the trumpet will be blown, whoever is in the heavens and whoever is in the earth will be struck with terror, save him who Allah pleases. And all shall be unto Him, humbled." (27 [Al-Naml]: 88)

I conclude this article on this supplication of the Promised Messiah, may peace be upon him:

My Lord, everything is subservient to You! My Lord, protect us, help us and have mercy on us.

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BOLETÍN AHMADÍA

Boletín Oficial de la Comunidad Musulmana Ahmadía de EE.UU.- Una publicación bimensual, espiritual y educativa

EL SIGNIFICADO DE LA ORACIÓN DEL VIERNES

Resumen del Sermón del Viernes del 17 de julio del 2015

Hazrat Jalifatul Masih V, el Jefe Supremo Espiritual de la Comunidad Musulmana Ahmadía, en su sermón del Viernes del 17 de julio de 2015 pronunciado en Baitul Futuh, Londres, dijo:

"En los últimos días de Ramadán muchos creyentes habrán obtenido las bendiciones de Ramadán y vivido nuevas experiencias". Dijo que algunas personas otorgan excesiva importancia al último viernes de Ramadán, hasta el punto de considerar que constituye un medio de salvación para el año entero y que la observancia de la oración del ultimo viernes exime de la obligación de rezar los viernes el resto del año".

Hazur dijo que los áhmadis no deben mantener este concepto. Dijo que es cierto que este viernes beneficiará a quienes desean purificarse y esta transformación se convertirá para ellos en Lailatul Qadr (la noche del Destino), que recibirán la luz después de una noche de oscuridad. Dijo que Lailatul Qadr es también un momento de purificación, en que el creyente vuelve a Dios.

En el Santo Corán Dios ha prescrito abandonar cualquier actividad para observar la oración del Viernes, siendo este un aspecto importante de la fe. El Santo Profeta[sa] dijo que los que acuden primero a la oración del viernes merecen una mayor recompensa.

También amonestó a aquellos que no otorgan importancia a la oración del viernes diciendo que Dios sella los corazones de quienes no acuden a propósito a tres oraciones del viernes. El Santo Profeta[sa] dijo que Dios ha convertido a los Viernes en la festividad de Eid para nosotros. También dijo que la oración del viernes es obligatoria para todos los musulmanes excepto para los esclavos, mujeres, niños y enfermos. La oración de Eid es, sin embargo, obligatoria para las mujeres.

Tras citar un hadiz del Santo Profeta, Hazur dijo que la persona que ofrece una oración teniendo presente que ha de orar después evitará cometer ningún pecado o falta, pues de hacerlo, su oración no será sincera y esto le acarrerará la perdición. Hazur hizo hincapié en la importancia de las cinco oraciones diarias así como en la oración del viernes. Dijo que su observancia dentro de las condiciones estipuladas libra al creyente del pecado y le conduce a la piedad. Dijo que las oraciones diarias ofrecidas para obtener el agrado de Dios sirven como medio de expiación para nosotros.

Hablando de la belleza e importancia de la oración del viernes, el Santo Profeta[sa] dijo que el viernes es el mejor de los días. Dijo; "Invocad darud (saludos) profusamente sobre mí en ese día. El darud invocado en ese día será presentado ante mí".

Dios prescribe cumplir con la obligación del viernes teniendo presente su significado y renunciando a todo tipo de compromisos y otras tareas. Esto será motivo de beneficio spiritual. Para obtener beneficios materiales debemos volver a nuestros compromisos y otras tareas. El bendecirá nuestros esfuerzos a cambio de este pequeño sacrificio.

Dios dice el ayuno conduce a la piedad. Debemos pedir a Dios para que hayamos renunciado totalmente al mal y hayamos adoptado la piedad con sinceridad.

Hazur rogó que Dios nos ayude a cumplir con el objeto de la venida del Mesías Prometido y llevemos la bella enseñanzas del Islam al mundo.

Pidió finalmente que Dios librara a los áhmadis de sus dificultades y para que la Umma musulmana reconozca al Imam de la época y se abstenga de perpetrar crueldades para que el Islam brille con su gloria en cada país musulmán.

Supervisor: Waseem Sayed
Editora: Razia Tasnim
Editores adjuntos: Tarik Ata
Dr. Jamalud Din Zia
Asifa Zia

Para más información, visite www.islamespaz.org

www.ahmadiyya.us www.alislam.es

Masjid Baitur Rehman

15000 Good Hope Road, Silver Spring, MD 20905
Tlfno: 301-879-0110 Fax: 301-879-0115

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Del Sagrado Corán

"¡Oh vosotros, los creyentes! Cuando se haga la llamada a la Oración del Viernes,
apresuraos al recuerdo de Al-lah y dejad todos los negocios.
Esto es lo mejor para vosotros, si lo supierais.

Y cuando haya terminado la oración, dispersaos por la tierra
y buscad la gracia de Al-lah, recordando mucho a Al-lah para que prosperéis.

Pero cuando ven alguna mercancía o una diversión, se dispersan en su busca
y te dejan de pie. Diles: "Lo que está junto a Al-lah es mejor que la diversión
y la mercancía, y Al-lah es el Mejor de los Aprovisionadores"

C.62, Vs: 10-12)

Hadiz (Relatos del Santo Profeta[SA])

"¡Oh Mensajero de Al-lah! ¿Cómo debemos invocar bendiciones sobre ti?" Contestó: "Decid:

¡Oh Al-lah! Derrama Tus bendiciones sobre Mohammad y sus verdaderos seguidores, como has derramado Tus bendiciones sobre Abraham y sus verdaderos seguidores.
Tú eres sin duda el Digno de alabanza, el Exaltado.

¡Oh Al-lah! Concede prosperidad a Mohammad y a la gente de Mohammad, como concediste prosperidad a Abraham y al pueblo de Abraham. Tú eres sin duda el Digno de alabanza, el Exaltado"

De Abdur Rahman (Bujari)

EL PECADO
(Escritos del Mesías Prometido)

Mirza Ghulam Ahmad
(1835-1908)

El pecado es un auténtico veneno que brota cuando el hombre está privado de la obediencia a Dios y está vacío de Su amor y de su entrañable recuerdo. La suerte del hombre cuyo corazón está desprovisto del amor de Dios es similar a la del árbol que, arrancado de la tierra, es incapaz de absorber el agua y se seca gradualmente, convirtiendo en hojarasca todo su verdor: el pecado consume su espíritu como la sequedad al árbol. Para combatir esta desecación existen tres tipos de remedio:

1) El amor; 2) el Istighfar, o implorar el perdón a Dios. Este término significa literalmente "el deseo de cubrir o tapar" y nos recuerda que mientras la raíz del árbol esté enterrada en la tierra puede haber esperanzas de verde follaje; y 3) el tercer remedio es el taubah, que significa volverse a Dios con toda humildad y acercarse a Él para extraer la savia de la vida y, salir del pecado con la ayuda de las obras buenas. El taubah no puede lograrse sólo mediante la lengua, sino que se consigue plenamente a través de las obras buenas. Todas las virtudes tienen por objeto alcanzar la perfección del taubah.

(Rohani Jazain, Vol. 12, pág. 328; Respuesta a Cuatro Cuestiones del Cristiano Sirayuddin, págs. 2-3).

SERMÓN DE EID EN LONDRES

HAZRAT MIRZA MASRUR AHMAD PIDIÓ POR LA PAZ EN EL MUNDO

El jefe mundial de la Comunidad musulmana Ahmadía, Su Santidad Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, pronunció el sermón de Eid-ul-Fitr el 19 de julio 2015, desde la Mezquita Baitul Futuh en Londres. Hablando de la importancia de Eid, Hazur dijo: Hoy se han reunido jóvenes y ancianos, hombres y mujeres, pues este día tiene un gran significado. El Islam ha decretado el día de Eid como un día de felicidad en el que los musulmanes deben unirse a sus seres queridos".

Su Santidad dijo que las diferentes naciones y comunidades celebran diversas festividades, cuyo único propósito es el entretenimiento y la recreación. Sin embargo los días de celebración islámicos guiaban a la humanidad hacia el cumplimiento de los derechos de Dios y el servicio a la humanidad.

Dijo: "Una característica distintiva de Eid es que es obligación de los musulmanes congregarse en la Mezquita para ofrecer las oraciones de Eid y escuchar el sermón, es decir, que cuando la gente se reúne para celebrar y disfrutar de sus programas de Eid, también deben reunirse para escuchar las palabras de Dios Todopoderoso y adorarlo".

También dijo: "A los musulmanes se les enseña que durante sus celebraciones de Eid no deben olvidarse de cumplir con los derechos que corresponden a Dios y los que corresponden a la creación de Dios."

Dijo también que el Islam enseña a los musulmanes a dar prioridad a los mandatos de Dios ante sus propios deseos. Dijo: "El Islam enseña que una persona nunca debe renunciar a la verdad en aras de sus propios derechos y nunca debe declarar legal a lo que es ilegal. Más bien hay que cumplir con los límites establecidos por Dios Todopoderoso. Por ejemplo, la persona adinerada podrá comprar algo que es legal. Sin embargo, si alguien que no puede adquirir algo lo hace a través de medios ilícitos, o incurre en una deuda gigantesca con el fin de satisfacer sus deseos personales, esto equivaldrá a dar prioridad a los deseos egoístas sobre los mandatos de Dios Todopoderoso".

Hazur dijo que el Islam no prohíbe a la persona cumplir con sus propios derechos. De hecho, Dios nos prescribe cumplir con nuestros propios derechos y los de nuestros seres queridos y de los demás, sin dejarnos llevar por el egoísmo. Su Santidad citó el ejemplo de un compañero del Santo Profeta del Islam (la paz sea con él) que adquirió gran riqueza. Dijo que nunca mostró egoísmo y en una ocasión donó una caravana de 700 camellos cargados de riquezas por la causa de Dios.

Durante su sermón, Su Santidad habló con pesar sobre el grave estado del mundo musulmán. Hazrat Mirza Masur Ahmad dijo:

"Las injusticias perpetradas por ciertos musulmanes de hoy en día no solamente están difamando al Islam sino que también pasan por alto los valores más básicos de la humanidad. Son tan inhumanos los actos perpetrados en el mundo musulmán, que uno se estremece al presenciarlos. Vemos que musulmanes están matando a otros musulmanes y arrebatando la vida de niños inocentes. Incluso este día de Eid, que es un día de alegría y celebración, se ha convertido en un día de luto. No muestran remordimiento, sino que más bien se enorgullecen de su crueldad. Se derrama sangre y se mata solo por el hecho de que las víctimas son de una secta diferente o tienen distintas creencias". Dijo:

"En ciertos países musulmanes los gobiernos cometen injusticias para que su poder no se vea amenazado, mientras que la oposición comete injusticias para derrocar los gobiernos, incluso a costa de vidas inocentes. Y la mayor injusticia es que todo esto está siendo perpetrado en nombre de la religión de Dios Todopoderoso y Su Profeta (la paz sea con él) y en el nombre del Islam ". Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad dijo que el Islam solo progresará a través de las oraciones y que todos los áhmadis musulmanes deben orar por la paz en el mundo.

Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad dijo finalmente:

"Hoy, si los áhmadis musulmanes desean celebrar el Eid en el verdadero sentido, entonces, a la vez que hacen lo posible por alcanzar las bendiciones del verdadero Eid a través de una reforma moral, deberán también hacer lo posible por liberar al mundo de injusticias y participar con fervor en la oración para liberar al mundo musulmán del desorden y los conflictos en que está envuelto".

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ACTIVIDADES EN MÉXICO

PRIMER ENCUENTRO INTERRELIGIOSO

El 25 de mayo de 2015 tuvo lugar en Mérida el primer encuentro interreligioso "Creemos en la Paz", que se celebró en el Centro Cultural Olimpo, bajo el patrocinio de la Dirección de Cultura del Ayuntamiento de Mérida. En el evento asistieron alrededor de 250 personas y participaron representantes de diversas religiones, entre los que se contaban representantes de la fe budista, Iglesia Católica, Iglesia Adventista, comunidad maya y la Oneness University.

El representante de la Jamaat, el Dr Waseem Sayed, hizo hincapié en la creencia en la existencia y unidad de Dios como requisito esencial para establecer la paz y la justicia en el mundo. Dijo que el Islam no monopoliza la salvación, sino que esta depende de la fe en Dios y en las propias acciones. Dijo también que el Islam no permite la coacción en la religión, excepto cuando se combate en defensa propia. Finalmente habló de la llegada del Mesías Prometido como guía espiritual de la época.

FESTIVIDAD DE EID EN MÉRIDA

La Comunidad Musulmana Ahmadía de México celebró por primera vez en Mérida la festividad musulmana de Eid ul Fitr, que tiene lugar después de finalizar el mes de ayuno de Ramadán. La celebración tuvo lugar el sábado 18 de julio del 2015 en el centro de la Comunidad situado en la capital yucateca.

La festividad comenzó con una oración y un sermón del Imam de la Comunidad Ahmadía de México, Noman Rana, en el que exhortó a los presentes a practicar el bien y mantener las virtudes adquiridas en el mes de Ramadán. Dijo que el propósito del mes de Ramadán es aprender o entender el esfuerzo de pasar hambre y sed, para solidarizarse con los que pasan hambre y sed en el mundo y mostrar de esta forma compasión por la humanidad.

Noman Rana recordó que Mérida tiene una comunidad de más de 80 miembros en los 8 meses de su presencia en la ciudad.

CAFÉ, PASTEL E ISLAM

La Comunidad Musulmana Ahmadía de México celebró el programa Café, Pastel e Islam en diferentes ciudades de México. En esta tertulia se invitó al público de Potosí, Guadalajara, México City u Uman a tomar café y pastel y a recibir información sobre el Islam y a participar en una sesión de preguntas y respuestas.

Este programa se celebra regularmente todos los jueves en el centro de la Jamaat en Mérida.

La televisión local de San Luis Potosí dio cobertura a este programa mediante una entrevista comentando las actividades de los misioneros en esta ciudad.

Comunidad Musulmana Ahmadía de México
Imam Noman Rana
Tel. móvil: 52 1 999 129 4594. Tel. de la misión: 52 1 999 924 2222.
Dirección: Calle 66 No. 453A X 51, Centro, Mérida, CP 97000 México
Email: Merida@IslamEsPaz.org - Página web: IslamEsPaz.org
Twitter:@elislam_merida - Facebook: Comunidad Musulmana Ahmadía de México

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